YS COMICS

ザ・ワールド・イズ・マイン VOL.9

新井英樹

小学館
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今、一番おもしろい

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

The World Is Mine	1～9巻	新井英樹
殺し屋！イチ	1～5巻	山本英夫
覗のぞき屋	1～11巻	山本英夫
日本一の男の魂	1～4巻	喜国雅彦
月光の囁き	全6巻	喜国雅彦
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よいこの星！	全6巻	柏木ハルコ
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家庭特製本

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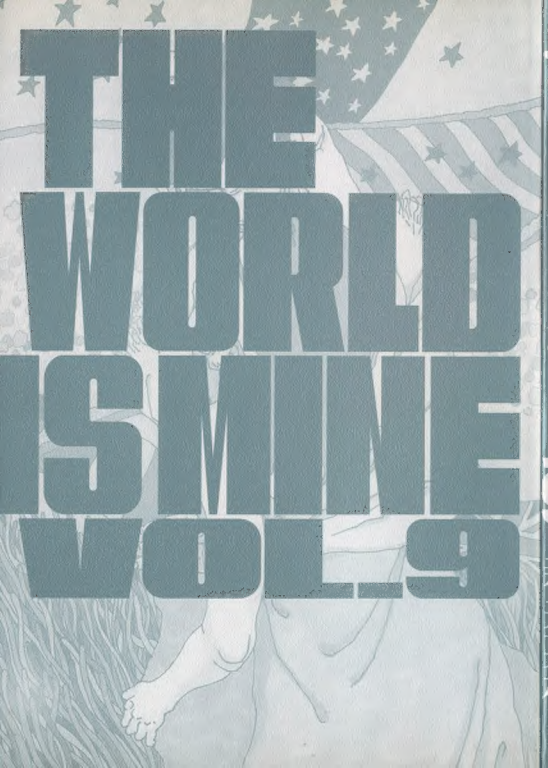
パクネヤング	1～2巻	松永豊和
青春くん	1～6巻	とがしやすたか
おカマ白書	全5巻	山本英夫

新井英樹
一九六三年
九月一五日生

びゅる びゅるる

BOOK DESIGN
AKIRA YANAGUCHI
(ROVERS)
写真提供●共同通信社・オリオンプレス
※カバー写真の陰影とは関係ありません。



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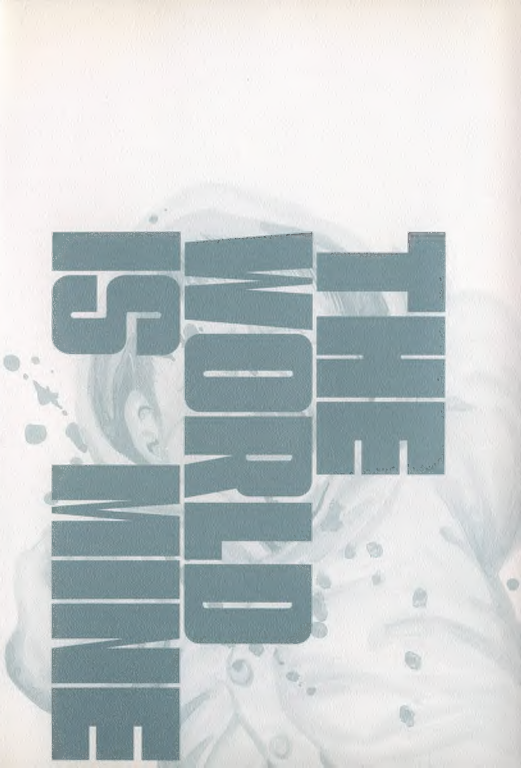

ザ・ワールド・イズ・マイン
VOL.9
新井英樹

THE WORLD IS MINE
VOL.9
HIDEKI ARAI

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92 SALTY & YAKKI

Dere was a loud "bang" !

It made a dry sound.

After seeing so many dead people, I mighta become deshen-sitized.

I shouldn't be so calm!!

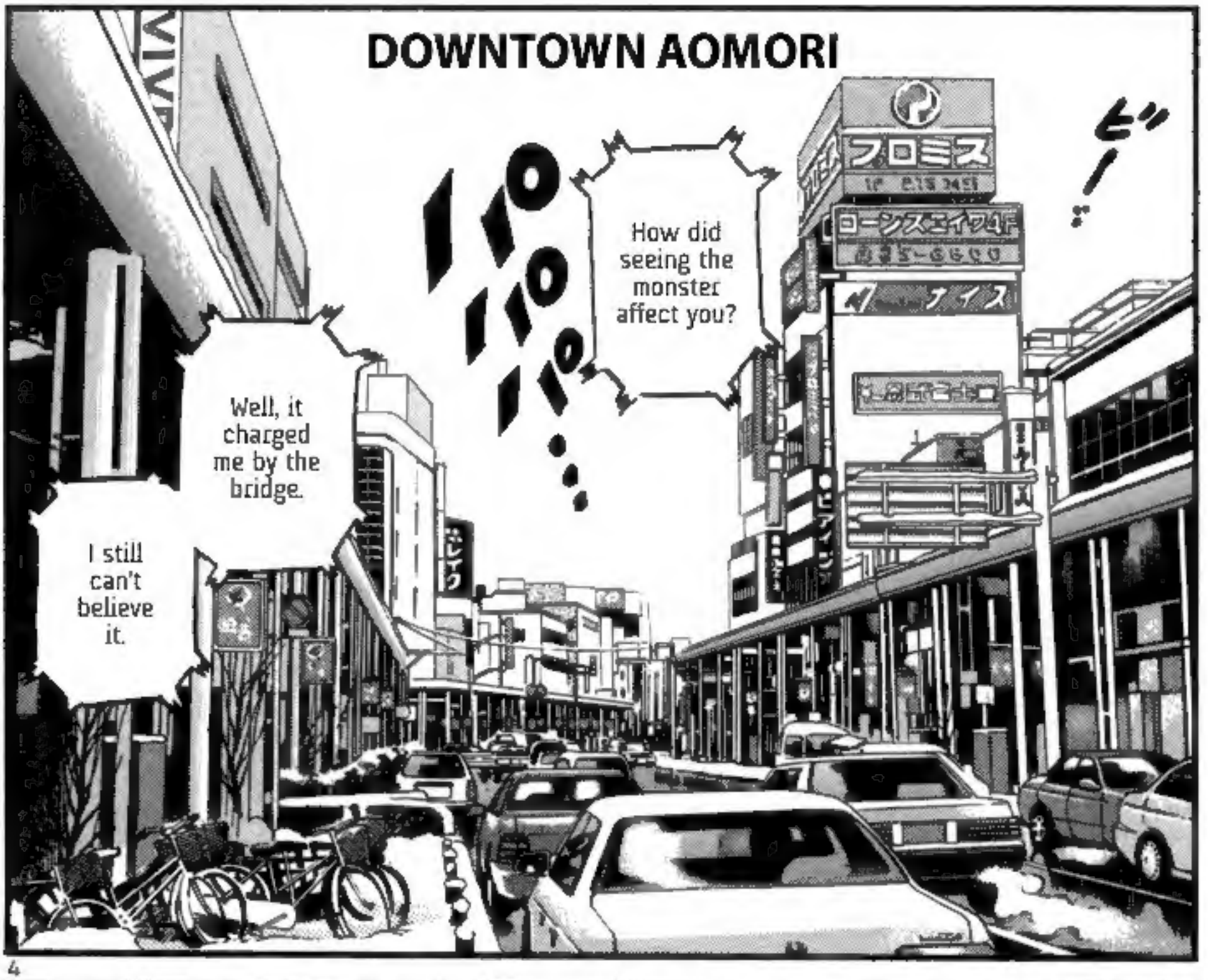
2

I can't be like this! It'sh not right! Shnap out of it!!

3

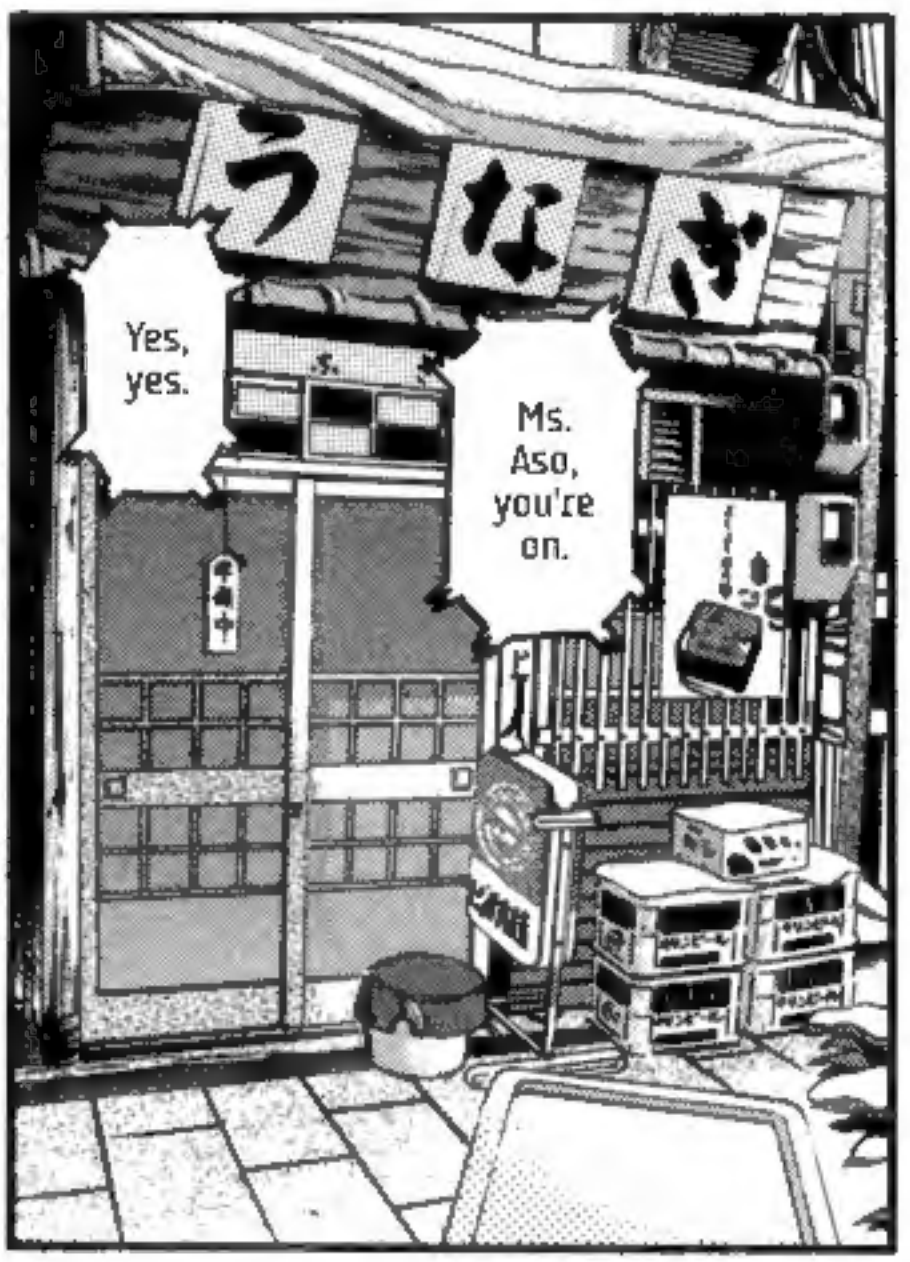
"Another stranger was just killed before me."

92 SALTY & YAKKI


DOWNTOWN AOMORI
VIVA
フロミス
ローンスエイワ4F
ナイス
ウイング
I still can't believe it.
Well, it charged me by the bridge.
I IO I IO I IO...
How did seeing the monster affect you?
!!

4

準備中
The city plunged into chaos. We know nothing more.
Do you know where the monster went next?


うなぎ
Yes, yes.
Ms. Aso, you're on.

8

ANY-THING FOR YOU, CHIEF.
MADAM, THANK YOU FOR ACCOM-MODATING US BEFORE OPENING.
IT'S TRULY TERRIBLE FOR AKITA...
ANY-WAY ...
LADY, I'LL HAVE THE EEL-TEMPURA-SASHIMI PLATTER !!
EX-CHIEF !!

5

I HAD A BIG BREAK-FAST, SO JUST SOME TEA, PLEASE.
WE'RE HERE TO CHAT AND TO CELEBRATE YOUR DEMOTION! TREAT YOURSELF !!
GO ON, EX-CHIEF SHIOMI!! MR. UNEM-PLOYED.

RIGHT. SHE JUST SAYS "HOW'S THE BOY?"

THE GRANNY FROM NEMURO WON'T TALK.

AKITA AND IWATE HAVE APPARENTLY STARTED TO SWEEP THE ENTIRE REGION.

THEY MIGHT BE HIDING OUT SOMEWHERE OR MAYBE STAYING WITH SOMEBODY... ALMOST 100 DEAD NOW.

THE CHECK-POINTS AND THE N SYSTEM* HAVEN'T FOUND THE "BOYS"...

* SEE END OF CHAPTER.

THEY WERE WITH MY ELEVENTH DAUGHTER, SO THAT MAKES THREE.

THE TWO GIRLS AT THE STATION... WERE THEY YOUR DAUGHTERS?

....HMPH.

WHADDYA MEAN, "GOOD?" WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

IS YOUR WIFE GOOD, TOO?

THEY'RE NOT BAD AT ALL.

SO I ONLY HAVE ONE 14-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, MERE, WHO HAS THE SAME FACE AS ME BUT WITH LONG FADED HAIR.

TO PRESERVE HER FIGURE, SHE DOESN'T WANT ANY MORE CHILDREN.

EXCEPT FOR "DOING IT," SHE'S USELESS.

LOOK AT ME! FOR THE SAKE OF MY CHILDREN, I CHOSE TO MARRY A PRETTY WOMAN.

WHAT ARE YA GETTING AT?

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY AS IF WE WERE FRIENDS ...

LOOK AT THIS!!

WE'LL DO THAT LATER ...

...

* SEE END OF CHAPTER.

WANNA SEE?

HERE'S A PRINT-CLUB* OF US TOGE-THER ...

ANSWER ME SERIOUSLY!! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU REALLY THINK!!

...SHE SEEMS HEALTHY.

...I'M BEING HONEST WITH YOU. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY DAUGHTER?

AS YOU CAN SEE ...

...

I, YOSHIHARU YAKUSHIJI, AM ASKING YOU A QUESTION, SO ANSWER ME!!

"THE LOCOMOTIVE OF THE POLICE"! "THE ROUGHNECK"! "THE STALE BEEF"! THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF MY NICKNAMES!

LIKE A NAIL STICK NG OUT OF A PLANK ...

THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, CHIEF FUJI-SHIMA TOLD ME "SORT THIS OUT BY YOURSELF".
I PLAY BY MY OWN RULES, WHICH GOT ME IN TROUBLE.
I'M CONSID-ERED AN OUTLAW.

BUT KEEP IN MIND YOU WON'T HAVE ANY SUPPORT. AS USUAL, YOU'LL HAVE TO MANAGE AND SORT IT OUT BY YOURSELF."
"I'M GIVING YOU ONE LAST CHANCE."
"DESPITE THE NUMEROUS ERRORS COMMITTED DURING THE POLICE STATION ATTACK, I STILL WON'T SANCTION YOU."

* SEE END OF CHAPTER.

...
BECAUSE MY IDIOT FATHER WORKS THERE.

I DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO THE FINANCE MINISTRY ...

I'M IN DANGER OF ENDING UP AS THE CHIEF OF A TINY DISTRICT.

IT'S NOT AN EXCITING STORY, BUT MY DREAM WAS TO STOP MY FATHER.

I COULD EVEN GO INTO POLITICS, RIGHT?

BUT WHAT IF I WERE THE ONE WHO ARRESTED TOSHI-MON? NOT BAD, EH?

EVEN NOW?

NOW, I KNOW IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT.

MORE OR LESS.

...A COMPASSIONATE MAN WELL-LIKED BY HIS MEN.
TOP MARKS, LOTS OF ARRESTS, A KNACK FOR GETTING CONFESSIONS...
PLUS, YOU NEVER MISSED A DAY OF WORK IN THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE. BRAVO.

JUN-ICHI SHI-OMI ...
I TOOK A PEEK AT YOUR FILE.

I DON'T DO MUCH FIELD WORK SO I NEED HELP.
THEY PUT ME IN CHECK, SO I DON'T HAVE ROOM FOR ERROR.
THE AOMORI CHIEF IS ONLY A PAWN ON A LARGE CHESS-BOARD.

AND I THINK YOU'VE PROVED YOUR-SELF.

ARE YOU STILL MAD ABOUT THAT KICK?

"WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE BUSINESS ON OUR OWN. WE DON'T NEED ANY HELP!!"

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE BOMBINGS?

ふーとうー

BUT I REALLY LIKE YOUR NON-CONFORMANCE.

AND JUST LOOK AT THE RESULT.

MR. YAKUSHIJI.

...

DO YOU THINK THE AUTHORITIES HELD ME BACK?

"WHAT CAN A COUNTRY CHIEF DO?" "WAIT FOR THE SAT"...

..."DON'T FIRE," "DO NOTHING," "RESTRAIN THEM"...

...TO KILL TOSHI-MON... WELL, RATHER, THAT "MON."

WHEN I WAS IN CHARGE DURING THE ATTACK, THERE WERE SEVERAL CHANCES...

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IN MY PLACE?

...THERE IS ONE THING I TRULY REGRET AND TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR.

HOW-EVER ...

...BUT THE END RESULT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME IF SOMEONE ELSE WERE IN CHARGE.

I DON'T MEAN TO COM-PLAIN ...

THUS, YOU WEREN'T QUALI-FIED TO BE IN CHARGE.

YOU TRIED TO CARRY OUT YOUR MISSION WHILE FOLLOWING ORDERS, BUT YOU FAILED.

I WANT A BURNING DATE, A BURNING LOVE AND A BURNING FAMILY!

AARGHHH!

NOO! SAY SOMETHING, CHIEF!

MY PERSONAL FEELINGS GOT INVOLVED AND JUST THE FACT THAT I STILL BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST TOSHIMON SHOWS THAT I'M NOT QUALIFIED TO BE A POLICEMAN.

THAT'S WHY I DID NOT ORDER MY MEN TO SHOOT.

I REGRET TRYING TO SAVE INSPECTOR YAMAZAKI WHEN HE WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE AFTER DYING.

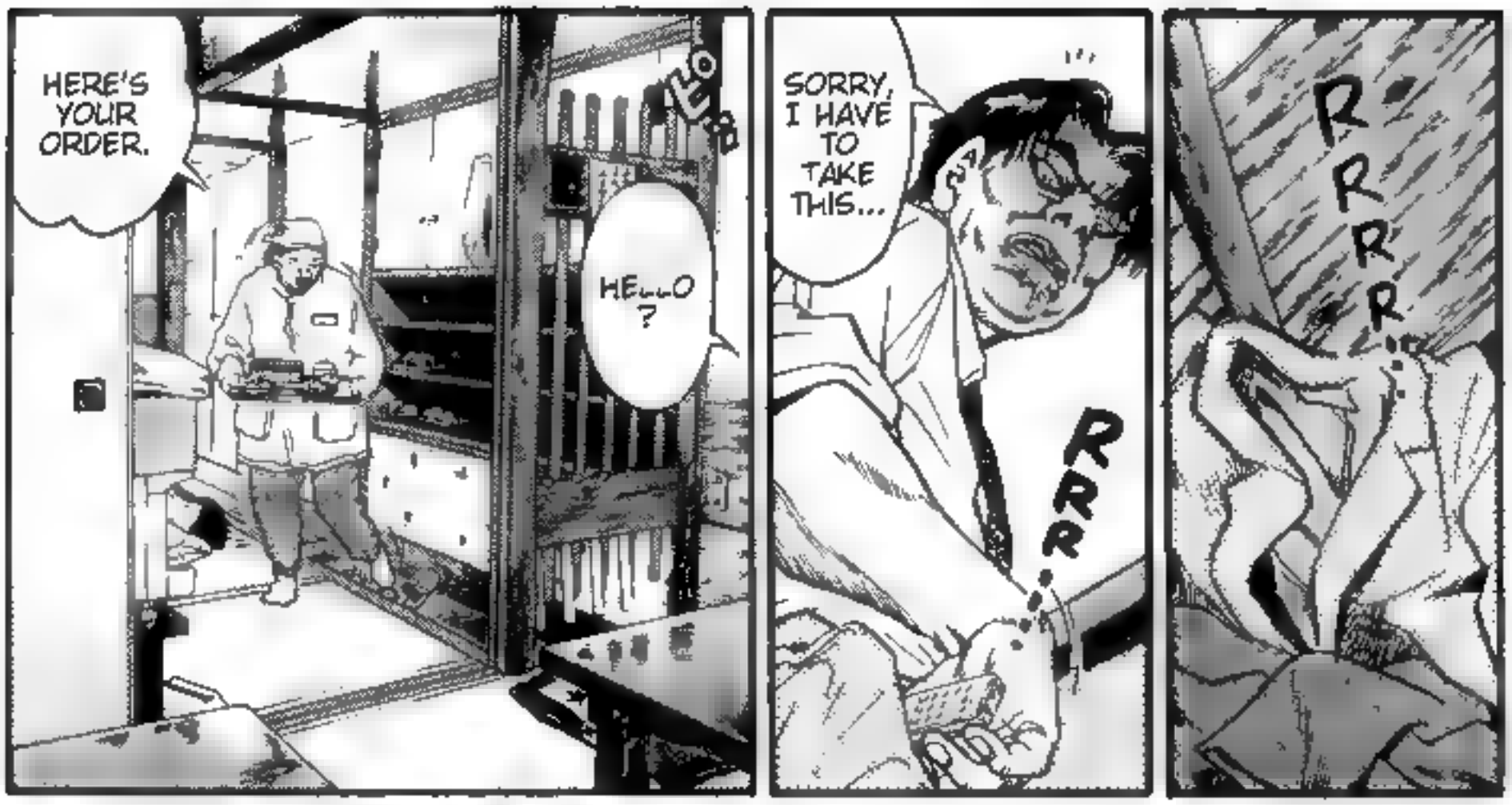
WOULD YOU SHOOT THEM NOW?

TELL ME THE TRUTH.

I NO LONGER HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DO SO.

HOW?

DO YOU WANT TO CATCH THEM?


HERE'S YOUR ORDER.
HELLO
HELLO ?
SORRY, I HAVE TO TAKE THIS...
RRR...
RRRR...

COULD YOU PLEASE CLEAR THE TABLE?
EX-CUSE ME ...
YOU FOUND FOUR BODIES IN AN ELECTRONICS STORE? IT WASN'T THE WORK OF THE MONSTER?
TO AKI-TA? ODA-TE?

HANA-ZAWA ?
YES !
GREAT !
I'M ON MY WAY! WHERE ?
TOSHI-MON LEFT SOME-THING?
HUH ?

AND I WANT TO HEAR THE TRUTH!

SHIOMI, DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN BECOME A DEMON, OR DO YOU WANT TO STAY UNQUALI-FIED?

DO!

16

THAT'S IT!! FOLLOW ME, YOU SON OF A BITCH!!

YER GIRL... IS A REAL FATASS.

IF THIS IS A DREAM, I WANT TO WAKE UP

NEAR THE ODATE HOT SPRINGS

MR. SAKAMOTO, ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE TOSHIMON FANS?

IF IT'S PART OF THEIR PROPHECY THEN YES!!

WHAT?

LOOKS LIKE MOSES CAME BY HERE.

JUN SAKAMOTO, CHIEF OF THE OPERATIONS BUREAU OF THE DEFENSE AGENCY...

WHO KNOWS, THEY MIGHT LEAVE A MARK IN HISTORY.

TOSHIMON, THE PROPHETS ...

WAS FOLLOWING THE TRACKS OF THE MONSTER, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS HIS MISSION, BUT ALSO TO SATISFY HIS CURIOSITY.

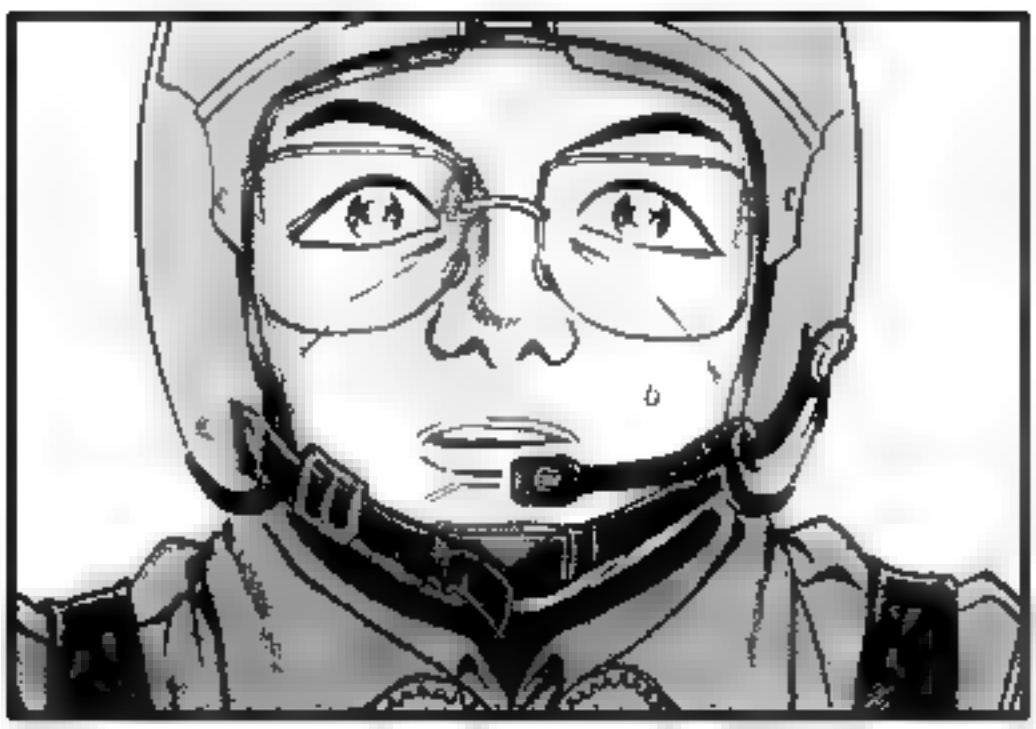
AH
...

NOTES

10 The "**N-System**" is a surveillance system that records the license plates of passing vehicles.

11 A "purikura", or **Print Club**, is the Japanese equivalent of a photo booth.

13 **Shihoku** is the smallest and least populated of the main Japanese islands.



The World Is Mine

ザ・ワールド・イズ・マイン

TO BE CONTINUED

HINAI - NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO A SILVER MINE

CHIEF OF THE OPERATIONS BUREAU
OF THE DEFENSE AGENCY - TOHOKU
GROUND SELF-DEFENSE FORCE HQ

JUN SAKAMOTO

WHOA
...

THIS IS ONLY THE PRO-LOGUE.

93 TO BE CONTINUED

AOMORI CENTRAL POLICE STATION

OUCH!! JOJI THE CLEANER !!

WHAT ?

WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THE AKITA POLICE?

NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY
SECURITY BUREAU DEPUTY CHIEF
THIRD PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION
YOSHIHARU YAKUSHIJI

CHIEF SUGA-HARA.

AOMORI POLICE PREFECTURE
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU
FIRST DIVISION LIEUTENANT
JUNICHI SHIOMI

5

AKITA POLICE CHIEF
AND COMMANDER OF
THE ODATE CRISIS UNIT
JOJI SUGAHARA

FOUR-TEEN MORE MILLI-METRES !

NO. THAT'S FINE.

DO YOU WANT US TO MOVE IT MORE?

LIKE THIS?

AKITA PREFECTURAL OFFICE

EXCUSE ME, MR. PRIME MINISTER ...

ODATE - HANAZAWA VILLAGE

We have identified the four bodies from Sakata Electrical Appliances.

Closed for Personal Reasons

12th 'til 14th

Addressing all units.

NOR-
MALLY
...
...THE
CHIEF OF
POLICE
SHOULD
HAVE
CALLED
YOU...
TOKYO
PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE

LET'S
KEEP
THIS
SE-
CRET.

PRIME MINISTER KANPEI YURI
R
R
R
R
R
R
...BUT IN
LIGHT OF
THE SITU-
ATION, I
PREFERRED
TO CONTACT
YOU
DIRECTLY.

SIR, DO
YOU
BELIEVE
THAT TO
BE A
COINCI-
DENCE?
IT IS TRUE
THAT THE
MONSTER
APPEARED
NEAR THE
CRIME
SCENE.
I SEE...
YOU'RE
NOT
CALLED
"JOJI THE
CLEANER"
FOR
NOTHING.
TO
COMPETENT
POLICE
CONTROLLING
THE MEDIA. IF
NEED ARISES,
WE CAN TALK
ABOUT A
COPYCAT.
I
PROPOSE
LIMITING
THIS
INFOR-
MATION

WHAT A STUPID QUES-TION.

...IS NOTHING BUT PURE CO-IN-CI-DENCE. DON'T YOU AGREE?

THE RELATION-SHIP BETWEEN THE MON-STER AND TOSHI-MON...

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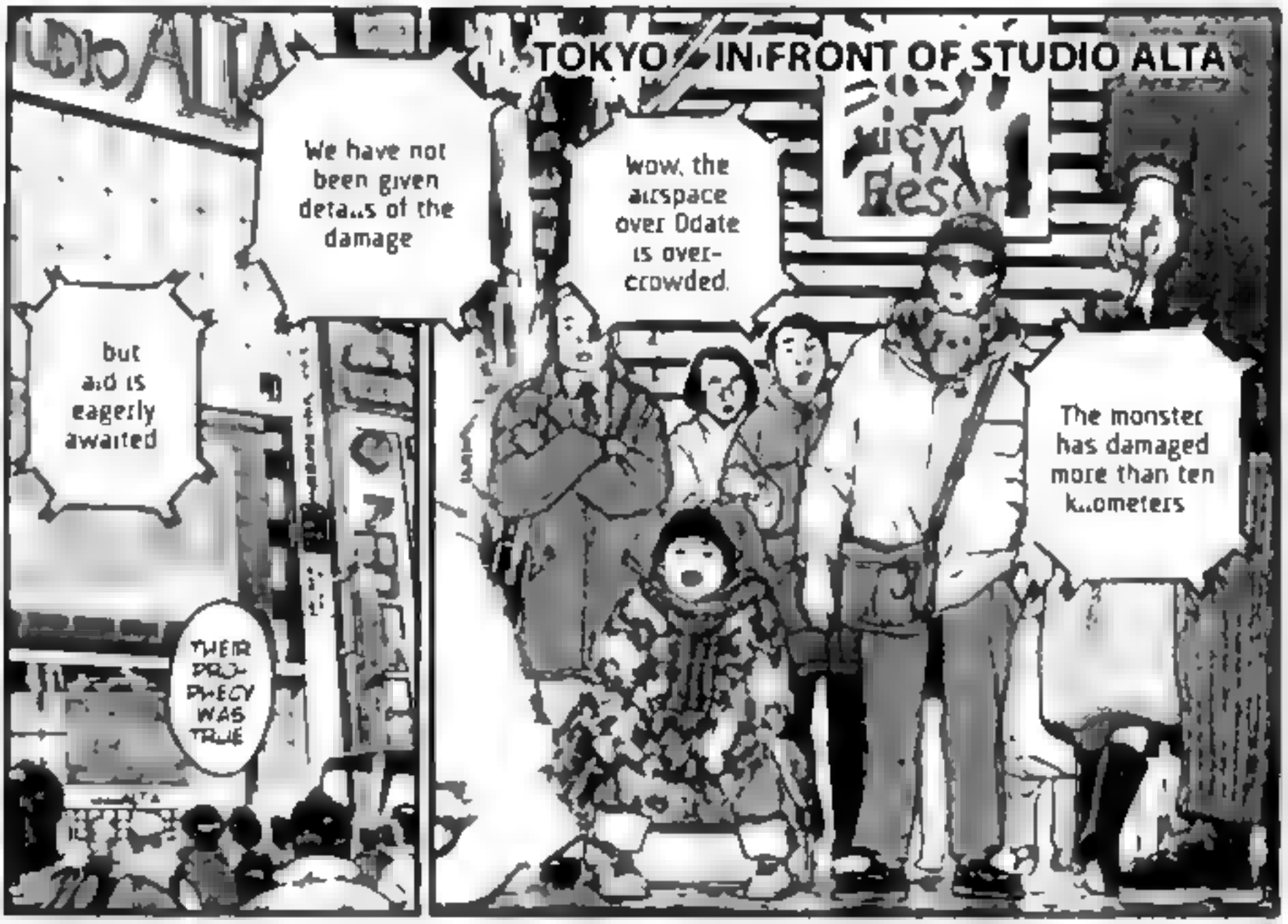
To Be Continued


STUDIO ALTA
TOKYO - IN FRONT OF STUDIO ALTA
We have not been given deta..s of the damage
but aid is eagerly awaited
THEIR PROPHECY WAS TRUE
wow, the airspace over Odate is over-crowded.
The monster has damaged more than ten k..ometers

9

This is Akita Control. Hornet 12 is on our screens but fails to respond.

This is BAT 453. Are you there, Hornet 12? Over.

Hornet 12. Hornet 12. can you hear me?

10

They have [illegible] for help, but contact the base anyway.

As he flicksh off the corpse...

SELF-DEFENSE FORCES
6th DIVISION, 6th SQUAD
Cpt. AKIHIRO TAMAKI

...Mon-chan screamsh somethin' barely audible.

I'm ... really shl-eepy ...

I don't under-stand.

"It's okay, he's dead."

2

TOHOKU FREEWAY - NEAR NAMIOKA

CRIME SCENES AND WIVES ARE BETTER WHEN THEY'RE NEW!!*

HURRY UP!!

* SEE END OF CHAPTER.

WE KNOW THAT NOBUKO, THE WIFE, WAS KILLED DURING THE NIGHT BECAUSE HER FATHER HAD DRIVEN HER THERE THAT EVENING.

"CLOSED FOR PERSONAL REASONS. 12TH 'TIL 14TH"... THEY PLANNED TO LEAVE ON THE 15TH.

IT ALL STARTED WITH A NOTE POSTED THREE DAYS AGO.

JUDGING BY THE NOTE THEY LEFT, THEY WEREN'T FLEEING. THEY WENT TO THEIR NEXT CRIME SCENE OR MAYBE...

WHY ?

BUT THERE ARE OFFICERS IN ALL THE STATIONS.

MAYBE BY TRAIN?

BECAUSE OF THE CHECK-POINTS, I DOUBT THEY LEFT BY CAR.

THEY WENT TO THE CITY...

THEY DEFINITELY TOOK BIKES OR LEFT ON FOOT.

THIS IS PURELY HYPOTHE-TICAL... BUT MAYBE THEY WANTED TO "WAIT FOR THE MON-STER."

SAY IT.

...

HE'S NOT A MAN.

HE'S A DE-MON.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT HATSUE HAMAKITA SAID...

WELL ...

ARE YOU NUTS?

GOOD MORNING, WE'RE FROM SENDAI TV. HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEWS THIS MORNING?

YES.

I'M BUSY!

OH... I'M SORRY.

EXCUSE ME, SIR... ARE YOU AN EM-PLOYEE?

ピ！！

SENDAI

YES.

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SUR-PRISED.

OLYMPUS

VIOLENT

A HI-GUMA-DON!*

WHAT SHOULD WE EAT?

Was it the work of Toshi-Mon?

It's hor-rible.

* SEE END OF CHAPTER.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT!

MON IS THE ONE WITH THE BEAR IN H S JACKET.

SFX: WAH HA HA

A great power —

かはっ

REPEAT LOUDLY AFTER ME!!

IT'S PROB-ABLY JUST TOSHI-MON'! FOCUS ON ME!!

HONEY! THERE WAS AN EXPLO-SION IN SENDAI!

8

TOSHI-MON'S ARMY?

THEY'RE BACK AT IT!

IT'S THE PRO-LOGUE TO HIGUMADON ATTACKING ANOTHER CITY!!

NO, IT'S DEFINITELY THE WORK OF A COPYCAT!

NOTES

35 **"Crime scenes and wives are better when they're new"** is a criminally bad pun on the expression "Wives and tatami are best when they're new" (女房と畳は新しい方が良い). Yes, I just made a pun on a pun.

37 **Higuma-don**, in another horrible pun, refers to donburi (丼ぶり), often abbreviated *don*, a dish consisting of fish, meat, vegetables or other ingredients simmered together and served over rice.

The World Is Mine
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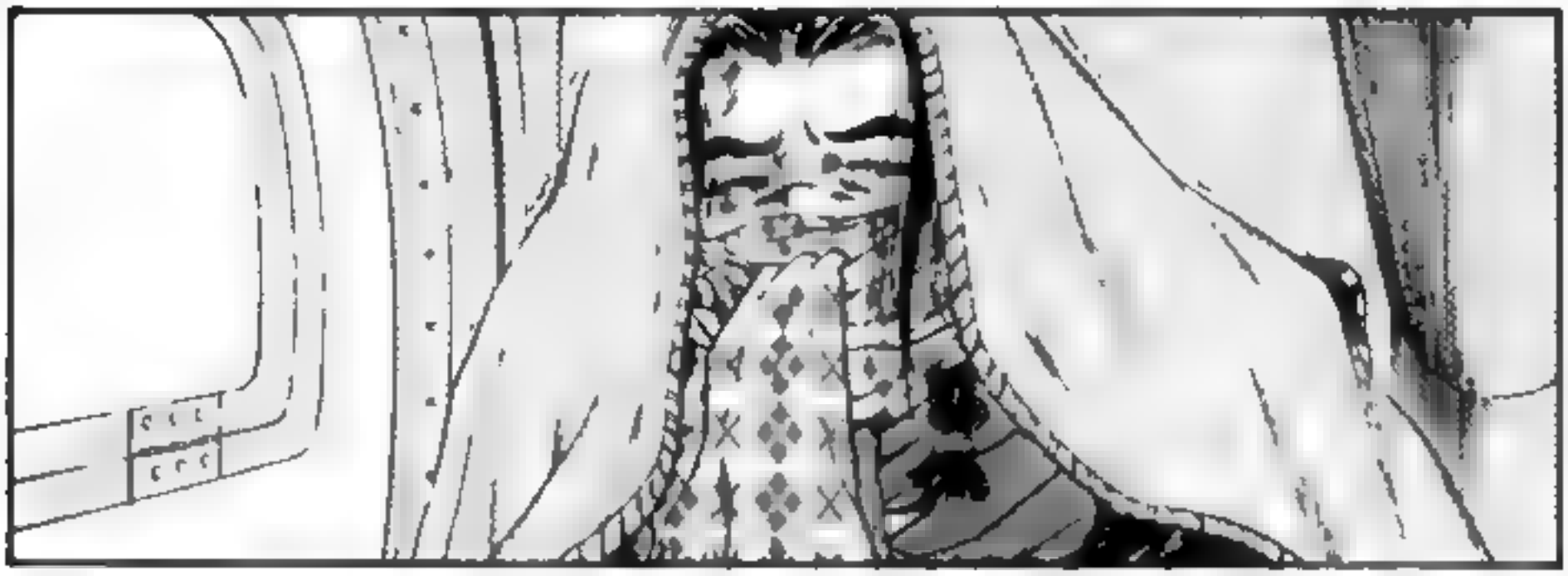
94 TENDER

Despite my gag and dis scarf, I've yawned three times looking at dis corpse.



Why do all vehiclesh make me so sleepy?

Dis'll be the third time Mon-chan wipes away my tears...

I will keep crying!

Both to bother Mon-chan, who's sitting on the corpse, and because I ought.

Crying makes me sad...

...so I cry even more.

Is it a good thing for me ta cry? Will I be forgiven if I cry?

But... who's going to forgive me?

A bomb just went off in Sendai.

I repeat...

We've just received news.

Thank you. Miss Aso

ARE TOSHI-MON IN SENDAI NOW?

DOWNTOWN AKITA

This is the Akita Police

At the Odate Police Station

We've received a tip that Toshi-Mon were there during the monster's attack

...wearing a black sweater and white pants, and he is armed with a hunting rifle

We don't know where this witness went, but we know he is a man between the age of 50 and 70..

The explosion took place in front of Takumi Bakery. The investigation is still ongoing..

We still don't know

THERE WAS A TIMER? WAS IT A COPYCAT? ANY WITNESSES?

TOHOKU FREEWAY - NEAR OWANI

I WANT OFFICERS DISPATCHED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PREFECTURE!! IF YOU HAVE TO, REQUEST REINFORCEMENTS FROM NEIGHBORING PREFECTURES!!

They believe it is the same type of bomb as the one in Hirosaki.

WELL... WE MUST FIRST ANALYZE THE SITUATION AND...

SHIOMI, DO WE GO TO SENDAI OR ODATE?

COME ON! MOVE! MOVE!!

94 TENDER

GROUND SELF-DEFENSE FORCE
AKITA GARRISON
ARAYA TRAINING GROUNDS

CAPTAIN TAMAKI, EVERY-THING ALL RIGHT AT JINMA-CHI?*

THANKS FOR THE RIDE!

I'M MAKING SMALL TALK!!

HUH?

* SEE END OF CHAPTER.

DON'T BE SO STRESSED OUT! I KNOW YOU WELL.

UM...

THE DEFENSE BUDGET WILL INCREASE AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BUY AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER!

DO YOU WANT ME TO DEMAND THE AMEND-MENT OF ARTICLE 9?*

NON-AG-GRES-SIVE DE-FENSE !!

WAKE UP, MARIA !!

GOOD MORNING, MARIA.

MON-CHAN, UNTIE HER!!

HAA...

HA

OWW!

OW

BUT!! ONE INFRACTION ON YOUR PART AND THERE'LL BE PENALTIES!!

MON-CHAN WANTED US THREE TO GO TOGETHER, SO THAT'S HOW IT'S GONNA BE!!

AS PROMISED, I WON'T KILL YOU.

I'LL REPEAT THE RULES, MARIA !!

IF YOU WANT TO TALK, YOU MUST FIRST ASK ME FOR PERMISSION!!

JUST ONE MOVE JEOPARDIZES THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT PERSON!!

CAPTAIN TAMAKI, THANKS FOR LANDING!

WE'LL TRAIN HERE FOR A BIT!

YOU KNOW, I'D LOOKED AT THE MAP.

WE NEEDED TO HIJACK A CHOPPER, SO WE WERE LUCKY THAT THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE SUPPLIED ONE.

BUT CAN YOU TELL ME WHY YOU LANDED? WEREN'T YOU THERE FOR RECONNAIS-SANCE?

SO I DECIDED TO TAKE THE AERIAL ROUTE, BUT NOT WITH A MEDIA, POLICE, OR FIRE SQUAD HELICOPTER BECAUSE THERE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH OF THEM.

THEREFORE, THERE ARE FEWER OFFICERS ON THE GROUND, BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY FOR THE GREAT TOSHI-MON!!

BECAUSE OF HIGUMA-DON'S ATTACK, THE POLICE, FIREMEN, AND THE OTHERS WOULD HURRY TO THE SITE.

AND EVEN IF THEY SUSPECTED US, THE [redacted] BOMB WOULD BUY US TIME!

PLUS, A HELICOPTER LANDING ON A TRAINING GROUND IS COMPLETELY NATURAL!

NOBODY WOULD NOTICE IF ONE WENT MISSING!

BUT THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE HELI-COPTERS WOULD GATHER EN MASSE NEAR THE ZONE!

"A GREAT POWER FROM HEAVEN WILL BRING ABOUT THE APOCALYPSE!" WE'LL BE BIGGER THAN THE REAL PROPHETS!!

AND HIGU-MADON JUST GAVE US A HAND !!

ALL THESE ELE-MENTS CAME TOGETH-ER!!

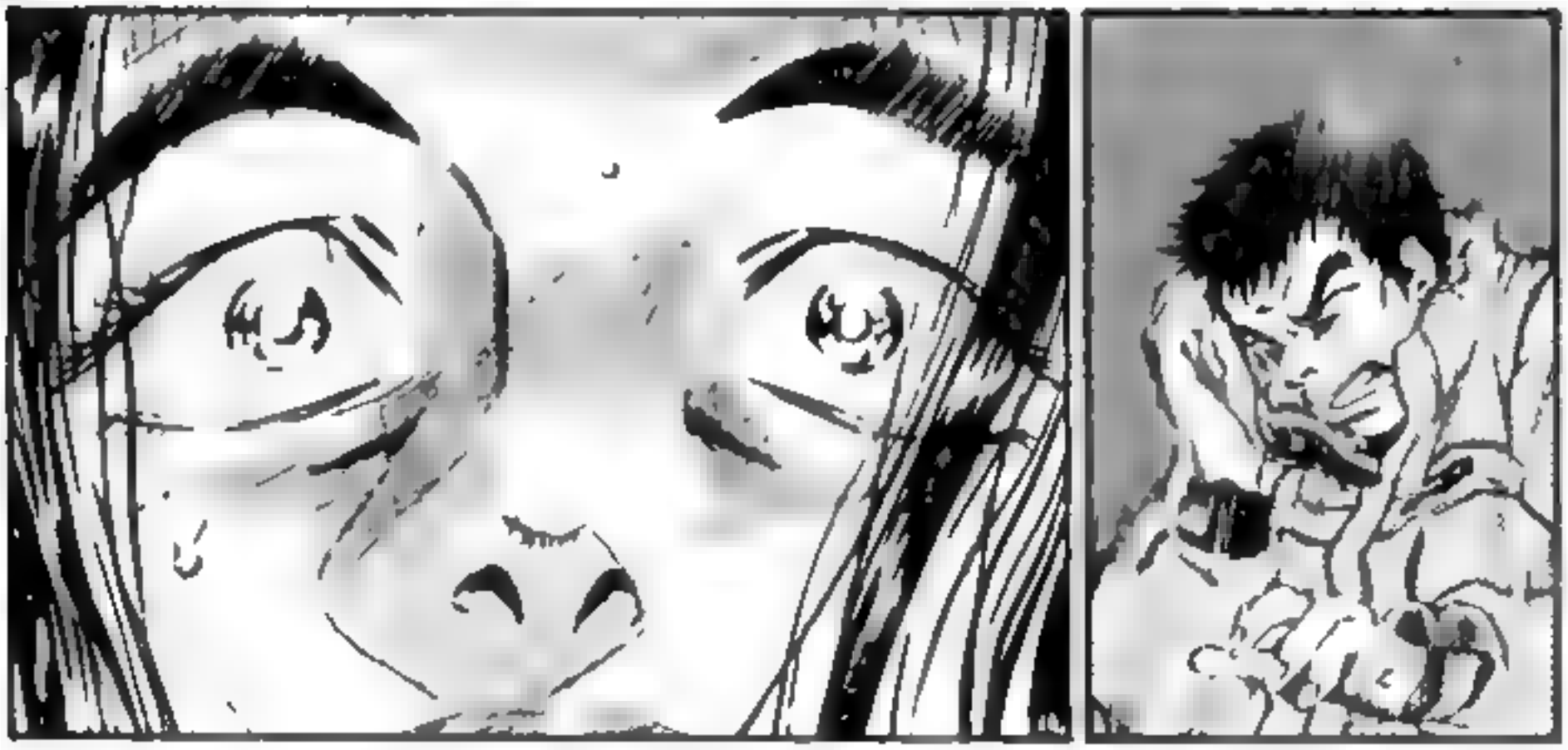
WHAT TIMING!! WHAT FORE-THOUGHT!! WHAT LUCK!!

YOU'RE WRONG !!

YOU DIDN'T ASK FOR PERMIS-SION.

IT'S LIKE GOD IS WITH US! NO... WE ARE GODS!!

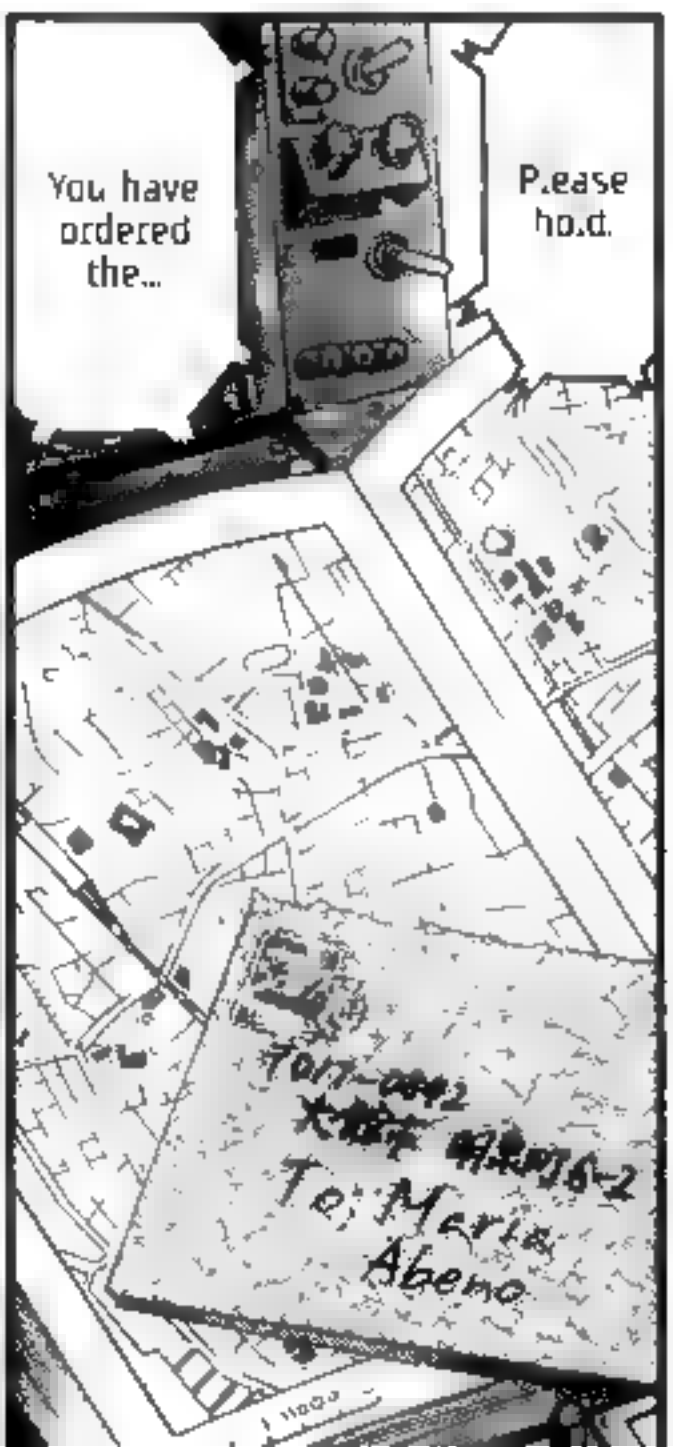
YIPES



LET THAT BE A LESSON TO YOU!

RE-ALLY?
A BUDDY OF MINE TAPED "BEAM IN MORN-ING".
YOU CAN CLEARLY SEE THE PART WHERE THAT REPORTER GETS TORN APART.
AWE-SOME! I HAVE TO SEE THAT!

8
8
0
1


You have ordered the...
Please hold.
To; Maria Abeno

16

NO ...

IT'S OKAY NOW... HE'S DEAD.

RRRing

BEFORE... I FELT OKAY WHEN THEY WERE ALIVE, TOO.

NO ...

NO ...

ONCE THEY'RE DEAD, I FEEL BETTER.

WILL YOU BE AT HOME LATER?

I HAVE A PACKAGE FOR YOU FROM MARIA ABENO OF ODATE.

Yes? This is Junko Sekuya

18

STOP IT...

NOTES

48 **Jinmachi** refers to the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force Sixth Division Headquarters.

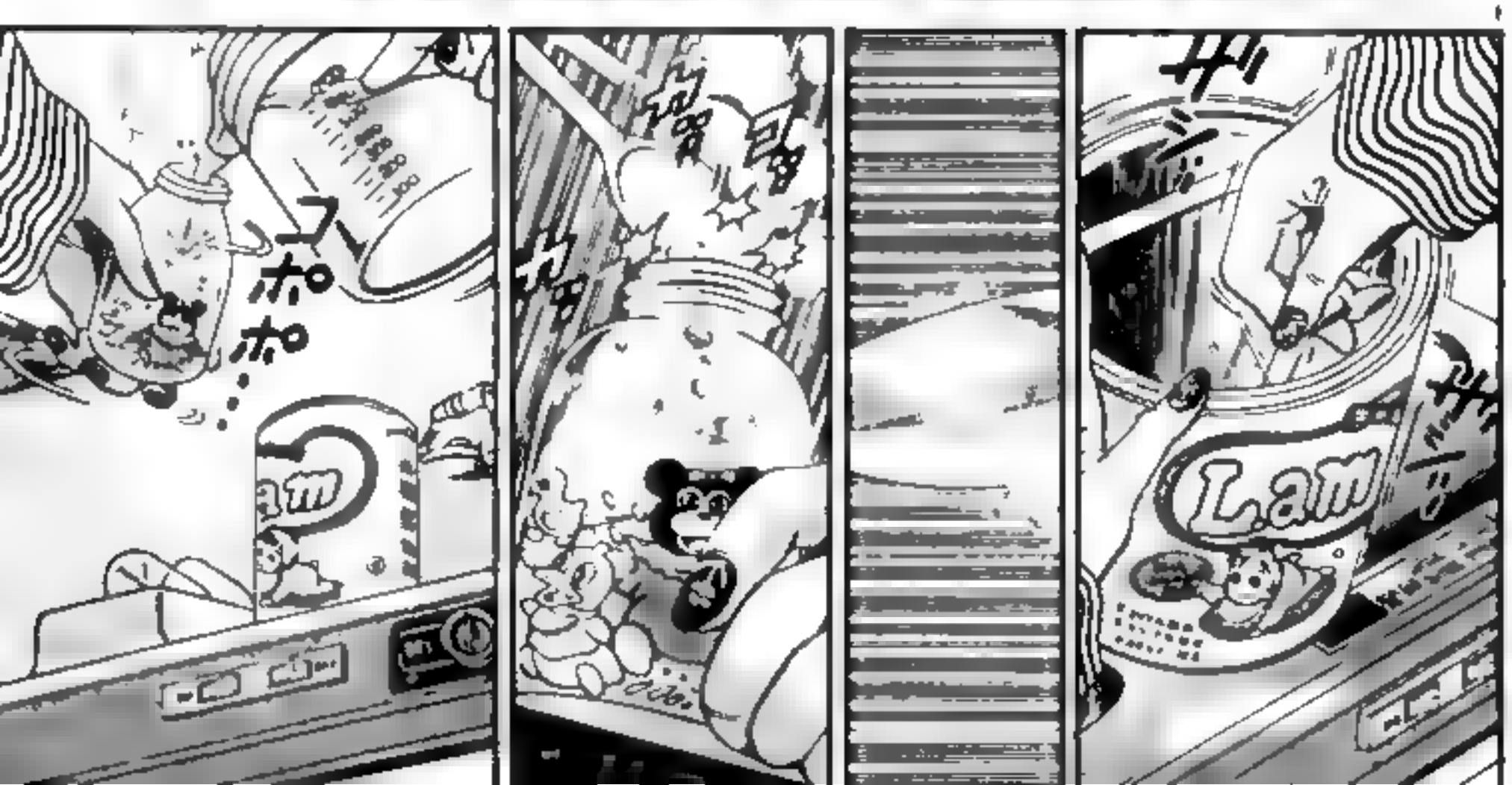
Article 9 is a clause in the National Constitution of Japan, coming into effect on 3 May 1947 during the occupation of Japan following World War II. It prohibits all acts of war by the nation:

Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes ***(2)*** *In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.*

The World Is Mine

ザ・ワールド・イズ・マイン

95 JUNKO SEKIYA



Beep

YES? THIS IS JUNKO SEKI-YA.

R R R R R R R R

7

A PACKAGE FROM MARIA?

YES

SORRY ?

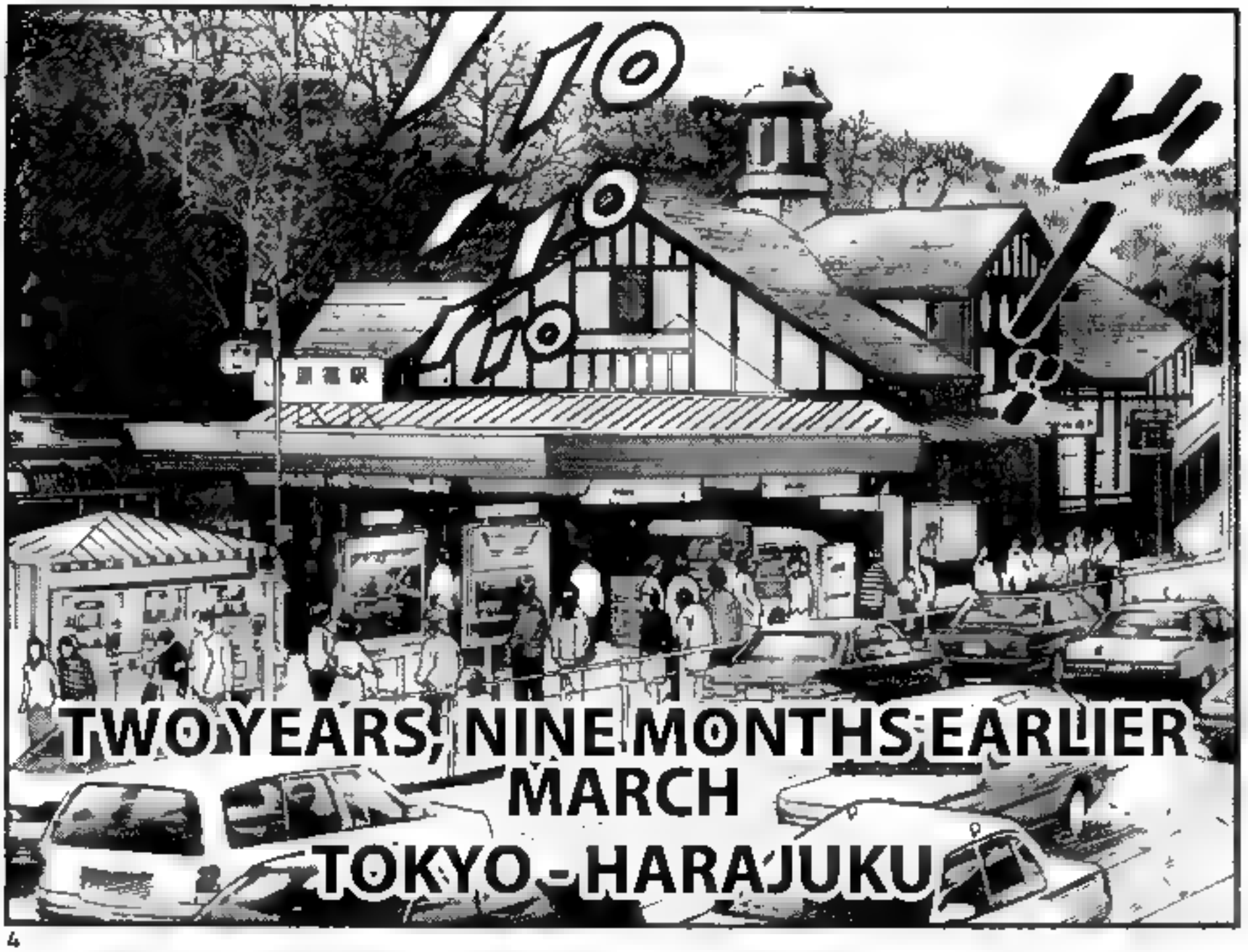
CAN YOU TELL ME WHEN YOU'LL DROP BY?

AH ...

YES. ONE O' CLOCK? I'LL BE HERE.

3

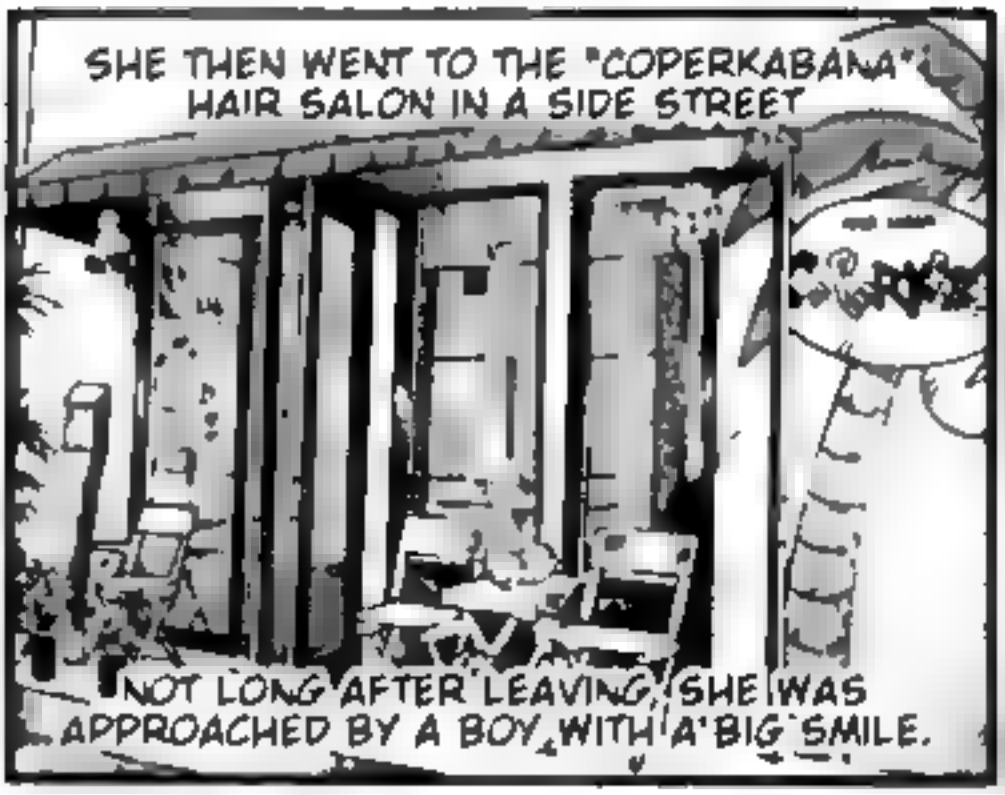
THERE, THERE ... CRY.

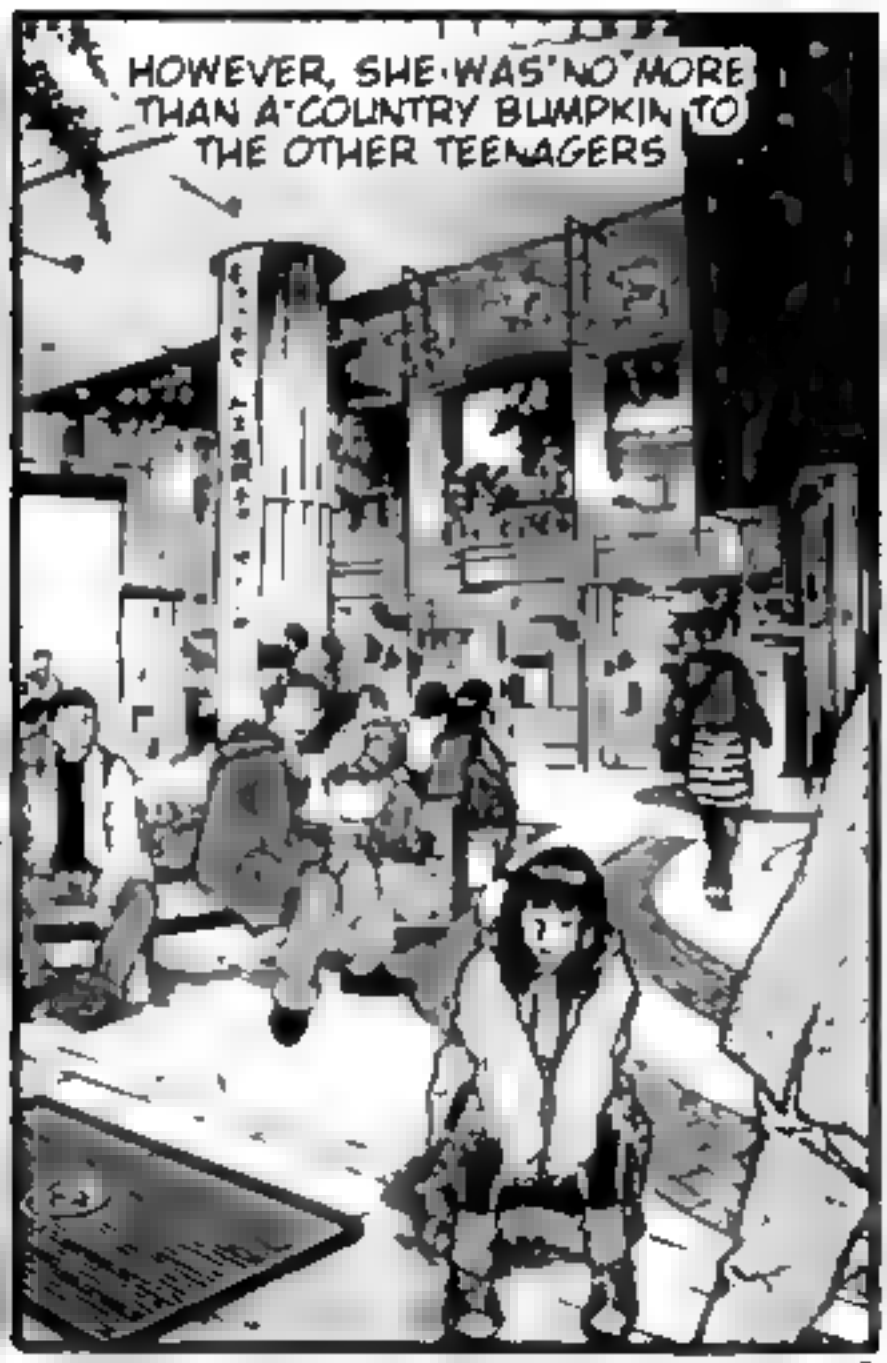


HAVING STOLEN MONEY FROM HER FATHER'S COLLECTIVE FARM, SHE SAT DOWN WITH HER BACKPACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HARAJUKU DISTRICT, HER MIND BRIMMING WITH THOUGHTS OF ADVENTURE AND FREEDOM.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM KASADA JUNIOR HIGH IN AKITA PREFECTURE...

...JUNKO SEKIYA TOOK THE NIGHT BUS TO TOKYO.


SHE THEN WENT TO THE "COPERKABANA" HAIR SALON IN A SIDE STREET
NOT LONG AFTER LEAVING, SHE WAS APPROACHED BY A BOY WITH A BIG SMILE.


HOWEVER, SHE WAS NO MORE THAN A COUNTRY BUMPKIN TO THE OTHER TEENAGERS

"DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND BOOBS?"

ON HER WAY BACK, SHE PLUNGED INTO DEEP THOUGHT. "CATERPILLARS TURN INTO BUTTERFLIES" "THE SUN WILL RISE AGAIN."

LED ON BY THE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER, WHO WORKED FOR A MAGAZINE, SHE EVENTUALLY OFFERED HIM HER VIRGINITY FOR 10000 YEN.
HAVING ACCOMPLISHED 50% OF HER OBEJCTIVES, SHE WAVERED BETWEEN FEELINGS OF FREEDOM AND REGRET.
©NIPPON CENTO

SUDDENLY, SHE THOUGHT SHE SAW HER STERN FATHER AND HER WEEPING MOTHER

HEY, YOU!! SHOWING UP THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL WITH PINK HAIR AND PIERCINGS?
COME WITH ME TO THE TEACH-ER'S ROOM !!
IN APRIL, SHE ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL.
95
JUNKO SEKIYA

SHE DID NOT ATTEND CLASS THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

SAKURAGAOKA HIGH SCHOOL, WHICH JUNKO SEKIYA HAD JOINED, WAS ONE OF THE MOST REPUTABLE SCHOOLS IN ODATE.

YOU WENT TO KA-SUDA TOO?

YEAH... SHE USED TO BE BE-HAVED...

THE FOURTH DAY, SHE RETURNED TO SCHOOL WEARING A WRESTLING MASK. AFTER SHE WAS FORBIDDEN TO WEAR IT, SHE MISSED TEN MORE DAYS.

THE DANCER FROM SENDAI WAS DIFFERENT.

DURING THIS PERIOD, SHE PROSTITUTED HERSELF TO THREE DIFFERENT MEN WHO LIVED IN AKITA, HIROSAKI, AND MORIOKA, ONLY ASKING THEM TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION. FEELING SLIGHTLY UNEASY, THEY PAID HER EXTRA.

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY, BUT KEEP IN MIND THAT THOSE WHO FACE THE FUTURE KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING."

HE TOLD HER THIS WHILE ACCOMPANYING HER TO THE PLATFORM.

6

AT THE TIME, SHE WAS DRAWN TO LITERATURE.

Yukio Mishima
Confessions of a Mask

BEGINNING OF MAY

IT GETSH REALLY GOOD LATER.

I'M OUT OF HERE!

DAILY LIFE BEGAN TO BORE HER.

BUT AS A RESULT...

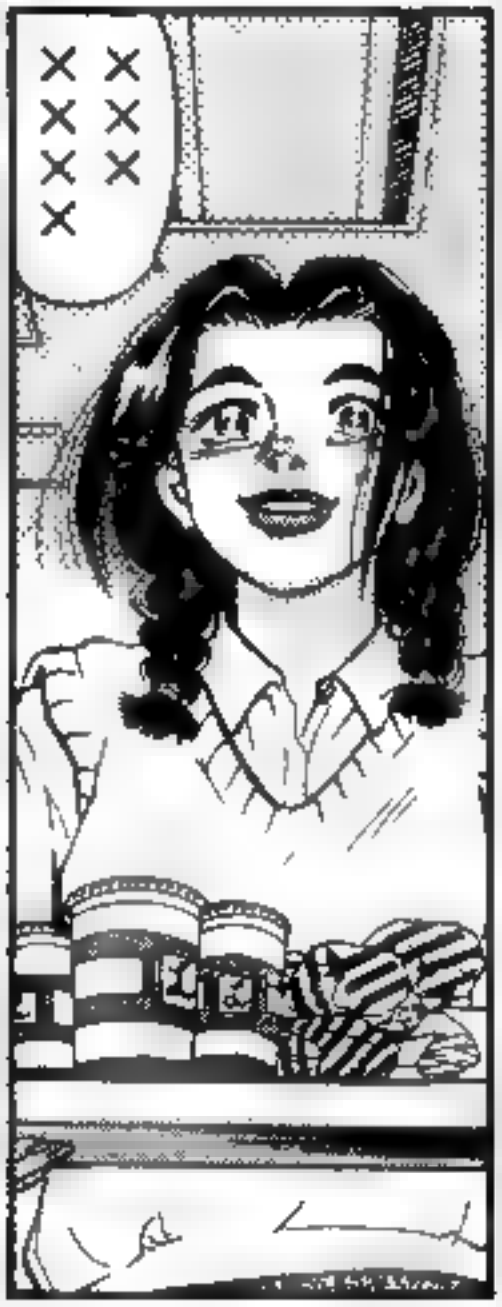
...TO TAKE PICTURES OF USED CONDOMS.

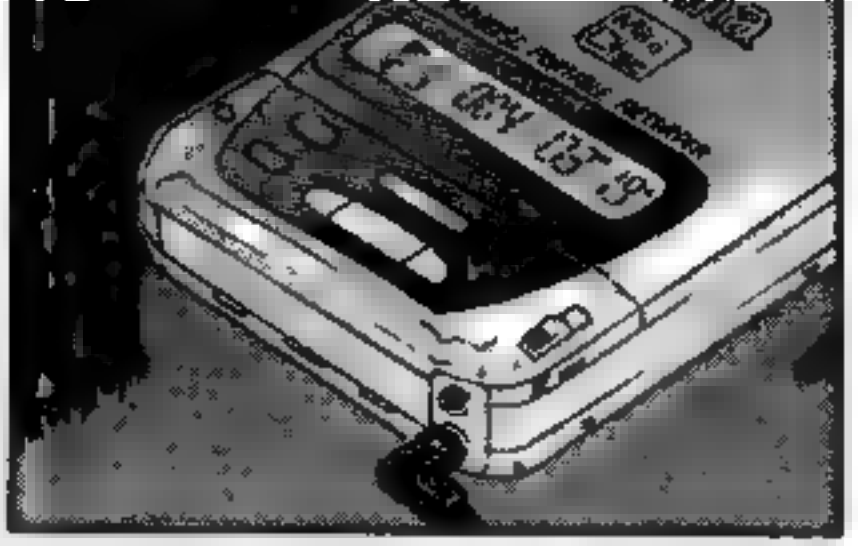
SHE SOON CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE CONDOMS WERE THE SOURCE OF THE HATRED GROWING INSIDE HER.

STILL ATTENDING SCHOOL, SHE CONTINUED TO PROSTITUTE HERSELF ON THE WEEKENDS.

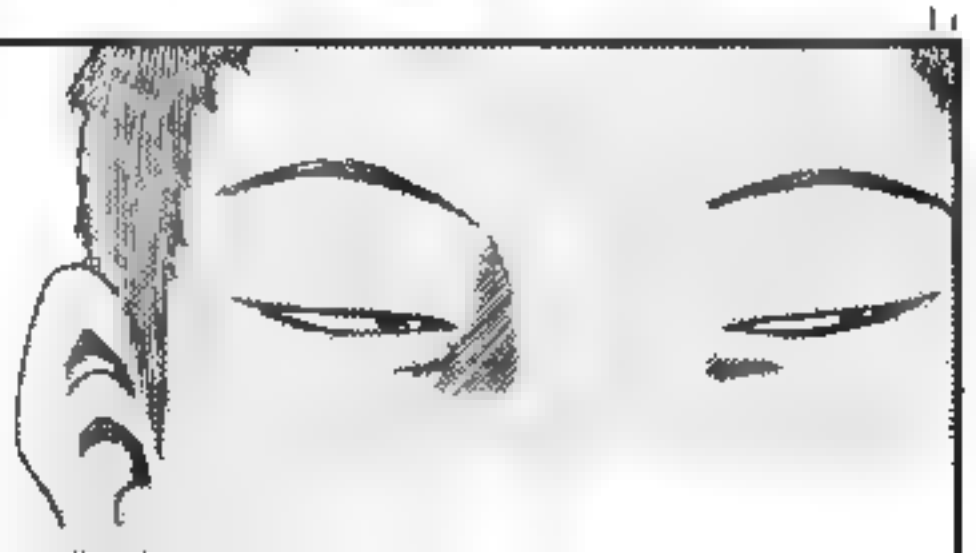
WITH HER INCOME, SHE BOUGHT A SMALL CAMERA...

AROUND MID-JUNE, THERE WAS TALK OF "THE RUNNING PROSTITUTE."





IN RESPONSE, SHE MUMBLED "I WASN'T LISTENING." THIS TOOK PLACE DURING EXAM WEEK.



AFTER TWO WEEKS, SHE TIRED OF ASKING HERSELF THE QUESTION.

IS SHE TRYING TO IMPROVE HER STANDING? GAIN POINTS?

MAYBE SHE'S A DYKE.

THEY TRIED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN MARIA ABENO'S MIND.

ON AUGUST 6, THE NIGHT OF AN ODATE FESTIVAL, JUNKO UNDERSTOOD SOMETHING.

The World Is Mine 9

HOW ABOUT WE ORGANIZE THE MISS TOPLESS SAKURAGAOKA PAGEANT?

SERIOUS SUGGEST-IONS, PLEASE!

I'm okay with being friends

14

HOW ABOUT WE ACT OUT A TV SHOW BUT IN THE AKITA DIALECT?

LET'S RUN A TEA ROOM!

GREAT!!

I'M AGAINST IT!!

.....

.....

I A-GREE !

AND THE EXPR-ESHUN "WITH ALL ONE'S MIGHT"

AND IN-SEC-TSH!

ME, I LIKE MONT-BLANC DESS-ERTSH!

... FREDDY MER-CURY FROM QUEEN!

... AND ALSO ...

you like?

I don't care, just tell me what you like !!!

What do you like?

... WHAT KIND OF THINGS ?

I LIKE HIM TOO.

"YOU'RE A SIMPLE GIRL, MARIA."

EVEN AFTER HAVING TO REPEAT A YEAR, JUNKO SEKIYA CONTINUED TO GO TO SCHOOL. IT WAS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WINTER OF HER SECOND FRESHMAN YEAR THAT SHE BROKE OFF HER FRIENDSHIP WITH MARIA.

IF YEH DUNNO IF YEH ENJOY IT OR NOT, IT'S BETTER NOT TO DO IT, THEN.

EH...

ARE YEH STILL WHORING YERSHELF OUT? DO YEH ENJOY IT?

JUNKO ...

WHY DID YOU WANT TO BE MY FRIEND?

MY LIFE IS BASED ON SEX.

FRIENDSH SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT ONE ANOTHER.

GET OFF MY CASE.

BE YEHRSELF AND DON'T SELL YEHRSELF LIKE THIS.

I THOUGHT WE'D GET ALONG. I STILL DO.

A SHORT WHILE LATER, SHE QUIT SCHOOL.

JUNKO... STOP THIS AND BE YEHR-SELF.

NOT LONG AFTER ARRIVING IN TOKYO, SHE MOVED IN WITH A STUDENT TOO ATTACHED TO HIS MOTHER WHOM SHE HAD MET NEAR A NOODLE SHOP. SHE ALSO FREQUENTED A JOYOUS 40-YEAR-OLD CHINESE MAN WHO WAS A REALTOR. DURING THIS TIME, SHE WORKED IN A MINIMART AND DID NOT WORK AS A PROSTITUTE.

THAT SPRING, SHE CELEBRATED HER EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY.

SHE LEARNED FROM HER MOTHER THAT MARIA ABENO HAD CALLED SEVERAL TIMES AND HAD EVEN GONE TO HER HOUSE.

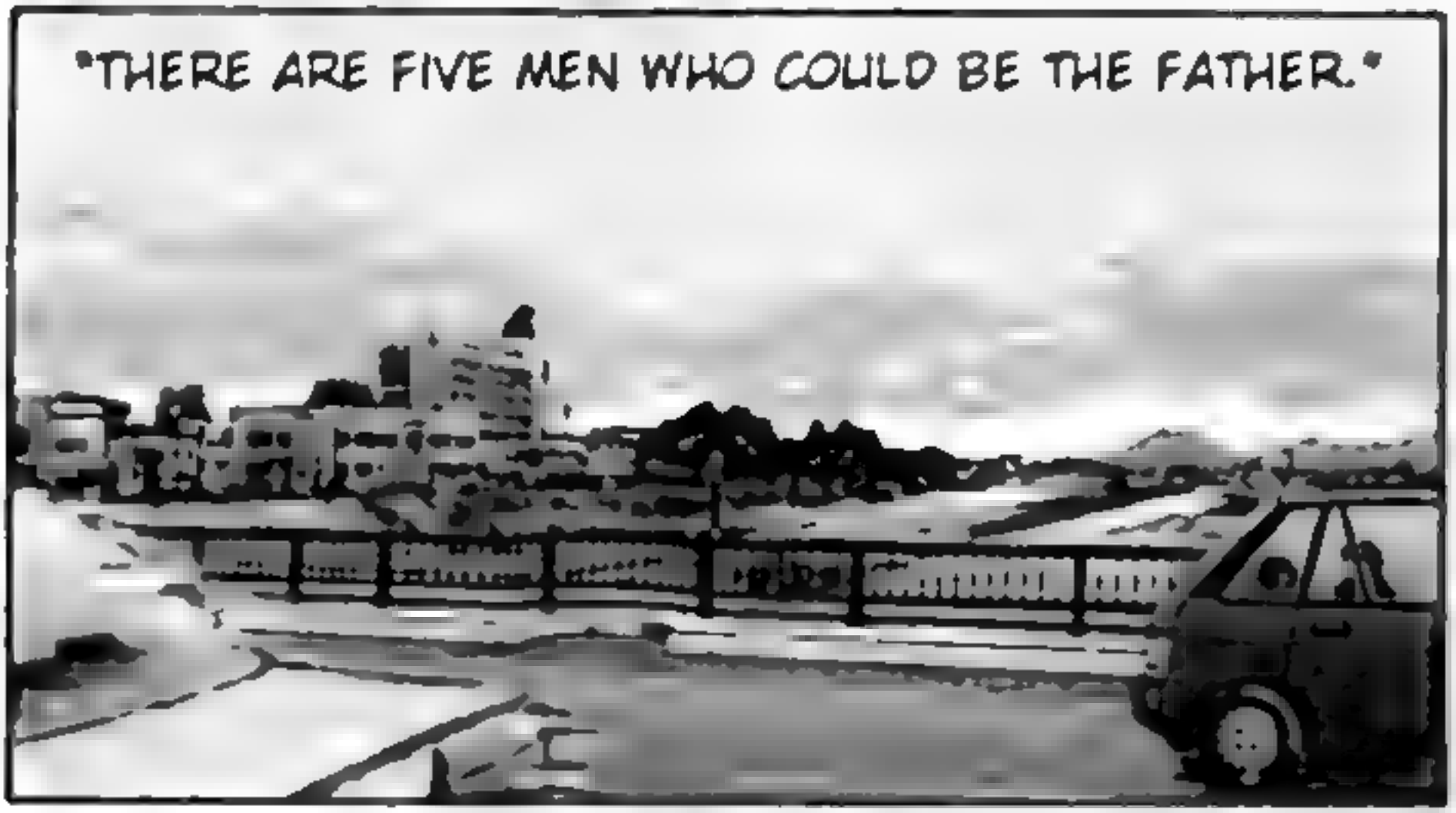
SIX MONTHS LATER, SHE RETURNED HOME, FEELING HOMESICK.

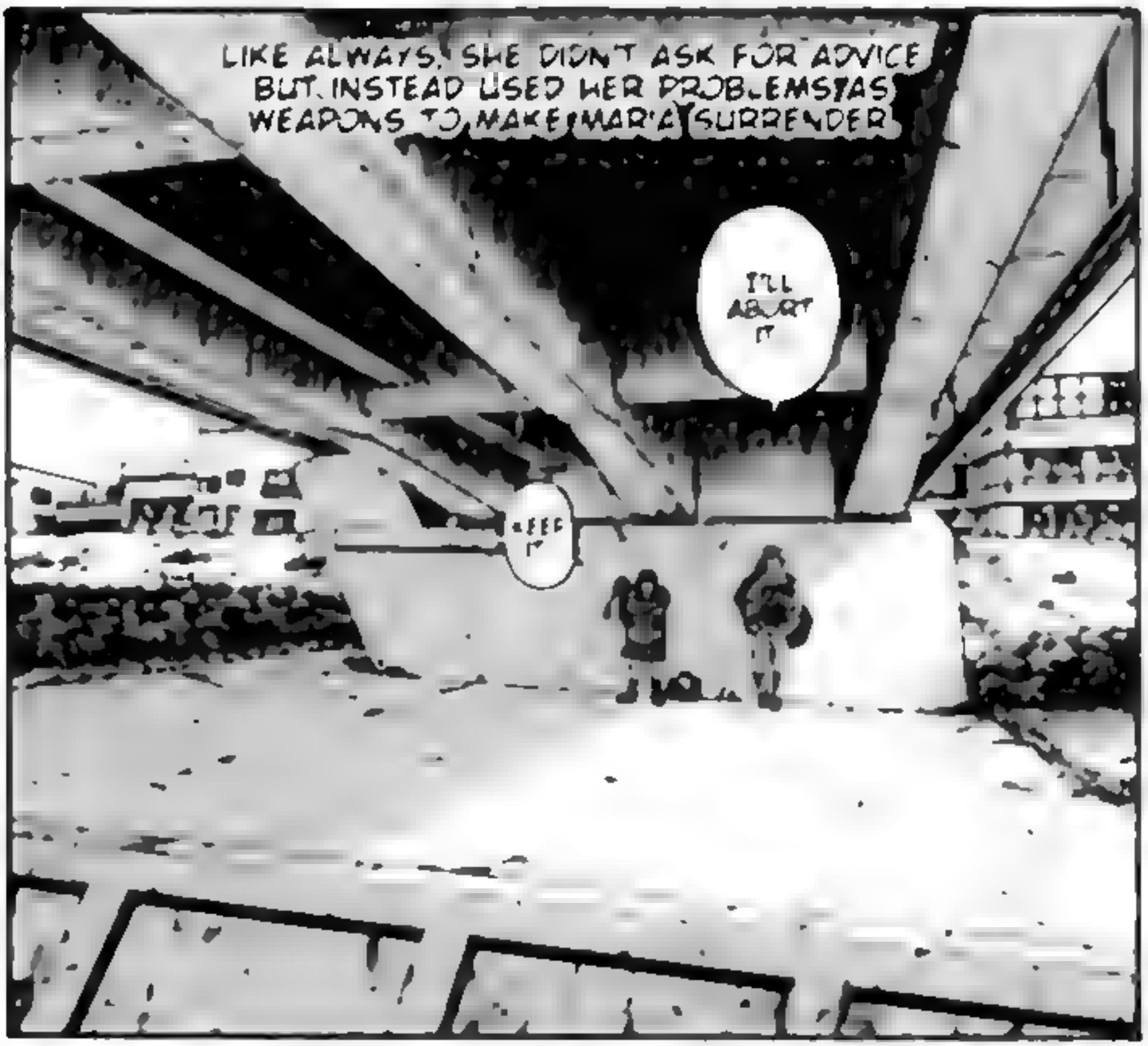
WHILE GETTING OFF THE TRAIN, SHE HAPPENED TO SPOT MARIA.

SURPRISED, SHE BEGAN TO CRY. BUT IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF MARIA'S SMILING FACE; IT WAS A MATTER OF TIMING.

SHE REPEATED TO HERSELF THAT IT WASN'T BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHO THE FATHER WAS; IT WAS A MATTER OF TIMING.

96 ...& BABY


"THERE ARE FIVE MEN WHO COULD BE THE FATHER."


LIKE ALWAYS, SHE DIDN'T ASK FOR ADVICE BUT, INSTEAD USED HER PROBLEMS AS WEAPONS TO MAKE MAR'A SURRENDER
I'LL ABORT IT
KEEP IT

BUT I'M ATTACK-ING YOU THROUGH MEDD-LING!!

SURE, I'M BEING NOSY ...

WHA ?

YOU HAFTA KEEP IT!!

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSHE, I'M GETTING INVOLVED. DAT'SH HOW I AM!!

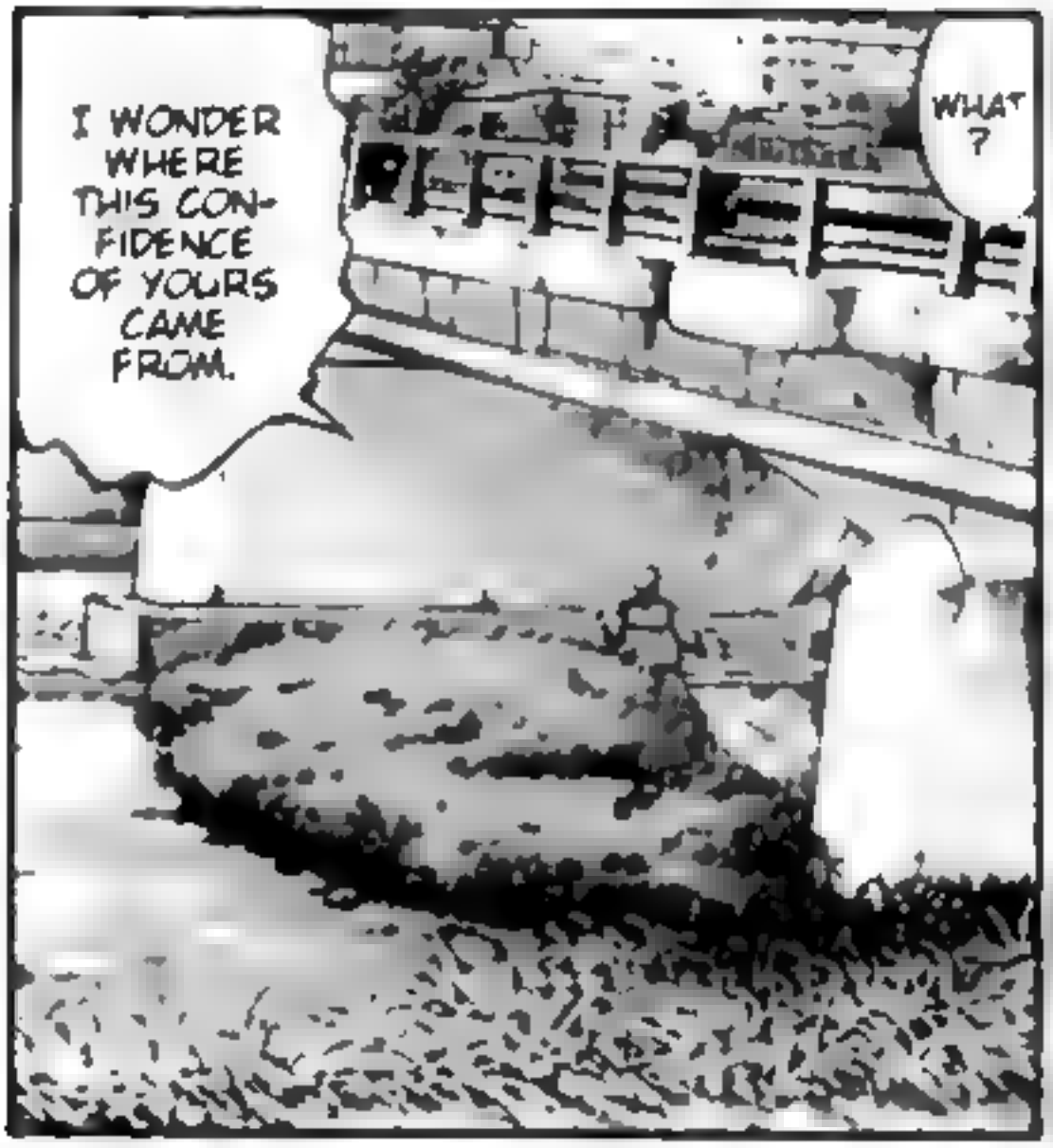
I'M PRACTI-CALLY HITTING YOU RIGHT NOW!!

I HEARD ABOUT THE TIME YOU GOT ON THE STAGE, PISSING EVERYONE OFF.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THIS THAT ALL THE OTHER GIRLS HATE YOU!

WHO DO YA THINK YOU ARE?

KEEP IT!



SHE REALIZED THAT THE SAME THING WAS HAPPENING AS IN THAT MORNING ARGUMENT SIX MONTHS AGO.

JUNKO FELT SIMULANEOUSLY SUPERIOR AND MISERABLE THANKS TO HER SPEED WHICH LET HER GET AWAY FROM MARIA, WHO SHE NOW VIEWED ALMOST HER ENEMY.

A PHRASE SUDDENLY POPPED INTO HER HEAD: THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO GIRLS.

96

THAT EVENING, AS IF DEFYING MARIA, SHE SOLD HER PREGNANT BODY.

...& BABY

...MA... MARIA OF ODATE, RIGHT?

BU.. BUT.. BUT THEN, YOU MIGHT KNOW...

R .. RE .. REALLY? YOU WENT TO SAKURA-GAOKA?

I... I WENT TO MINAMI!

THIS IS WHAT HE SAID AT A NORMAL SPEED: "I HEARD HOW THAT PAINTER TOOK HER VIRGINITY."

"IT WAS DURING THE SUMMER. HE WAS 18, SHE WAS 15."

I KNOW ...

I ...

I ...

T- TOOK ...

... WHO ...

... WHO ...

"STILL CLAIMING HE WASN'T ATTRACTED TO YOUNG GIRLS, HE FELL IN LOVE WITH MARIA IN APRIL AND STARTED STALKING HER."

"MARIA RESPONDED, 'FALLING IN LOVE IS A TYPE OF VIOLENCE.' HE FELL ON HIS KNEES, CRYING, AND TRIED TO GAIN HER SYMPATHY."

"HE SPIED ON HER AND FILMED HER BECAUSE HE WAS SUFFERING FROM A MODERN SICKNESS THAT SAYS ANYTHING IS OKAY FOR THE SAKE OF LOVE."

"IN AUGUST, SHE CORNERED HIM LIKE A TRAPPED MOUSE BITING A CAT. HE TOLD HER, 'I DID IT BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.'"

"HIS STORY WAS A MIX OF TRUTHS AND LIES. HOWEVER, AS HE SPOKE, HE REALIZED HOW MISERABLE HIS LIFE TRULY WAS AND HE SUDDENLY BEGAN TO CRY AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE FOR THE THIRD TIME IN FRONT OF MARIA."

"HE TALKED ABOUT HIS BIRTH AND HIS UNHAPPY CHILDHOOD, AND ABOUT HOW, IN SCHOOL, HE WAS CALLED 'SHIT' AND WAS ACCUSED OF STEALING FROM THE CAFETERIA. PLUS, INEXPERIENCED IN CONVERSATION WITH GIRLS, HE TOLD HER HE WAS STILL A VIRGIN."

"NOBODY KNOWS WHY SHE CHANGED HER MIND, BUT, FINALLY, 'MARIA OF ODATE' (AS SHE WOULD BE CALLED LATER) OFFERED HIM HER VIRGINITY."

7

H-HE SAID... TH-THAT SH... SHE WAS A... A BARGAIN.

H-HE... HE...

"AFTERWARDS, THE PAINTER MOVED TO TOKYO AND WORKED SOME SMALL JOBS. LAST YEAR, AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE, HE WAS RUN OVER BY A CRANE AND DIED."

HARU
AKITA
...WHILE THE MAN FOUGHT BACK,
EVEN IF IT WAS UNCONSCIOUS.

AFTER LEAVING THE HOTEL, SHE WAITED FOR THE FIRST TRAIN

SHE REFLECTED ON THE FACT THAT SHE PROTECTED HER STOMACH

"NOT YET JUNKO SEKIYA"

東大館駅

"NOT EXACTLY A PROSTITUTE."

"NOT YET LEGAL,"
"NOT YET A MOTHER,"

MARIA.

WOULD YOU MIND ...

9

SHE ACCEPTED THAT MARIA "WAS WHO SHE WAS."

...IF WE TALKED ABOUT IT AGAIN?

WELCOME TO ODATE BIRTHPLACE OF HACHIKO

I DUNNO, I DON'T HAVE ANY KIDSH.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO CONVINCE MY PARENTS?

IT'SH NOT MY FAULT IF I'M ALL RILED UP!!

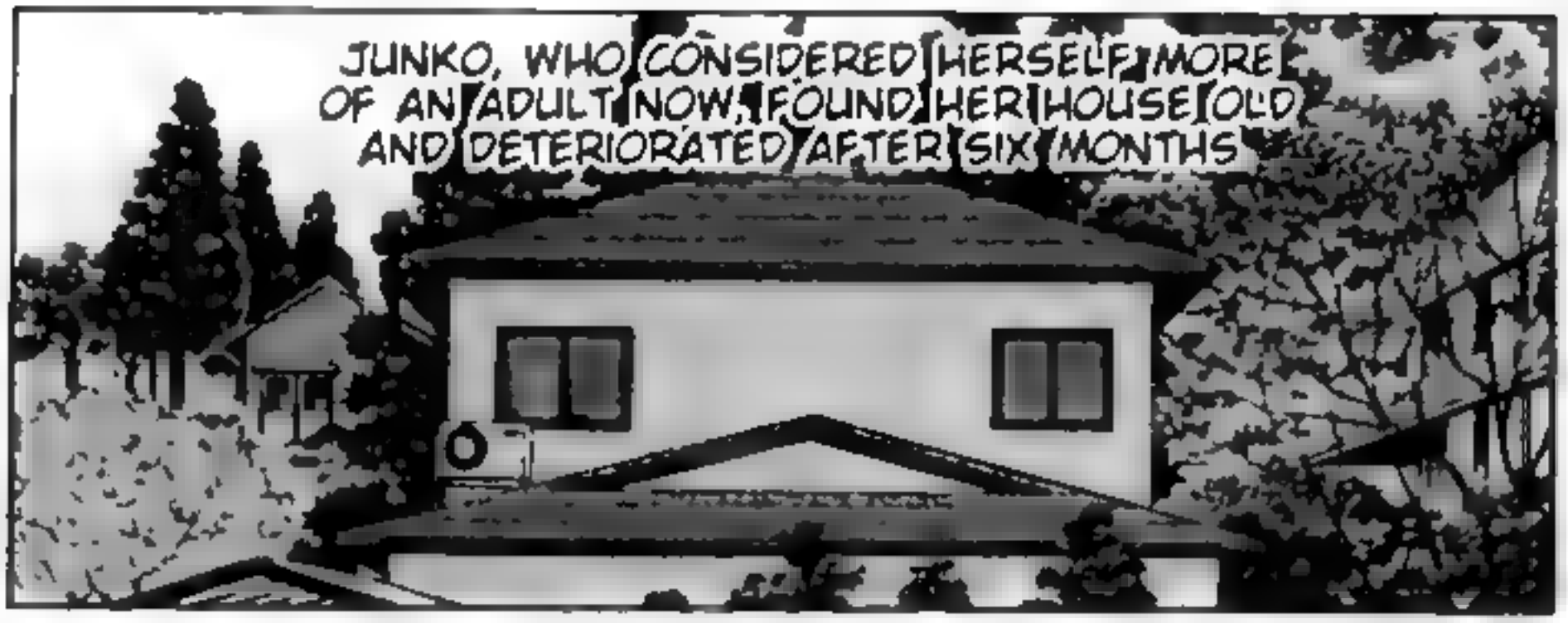
IT'S A FAMILY ISSUE, AND YOU'RE GOING TO GET INVOLVED?

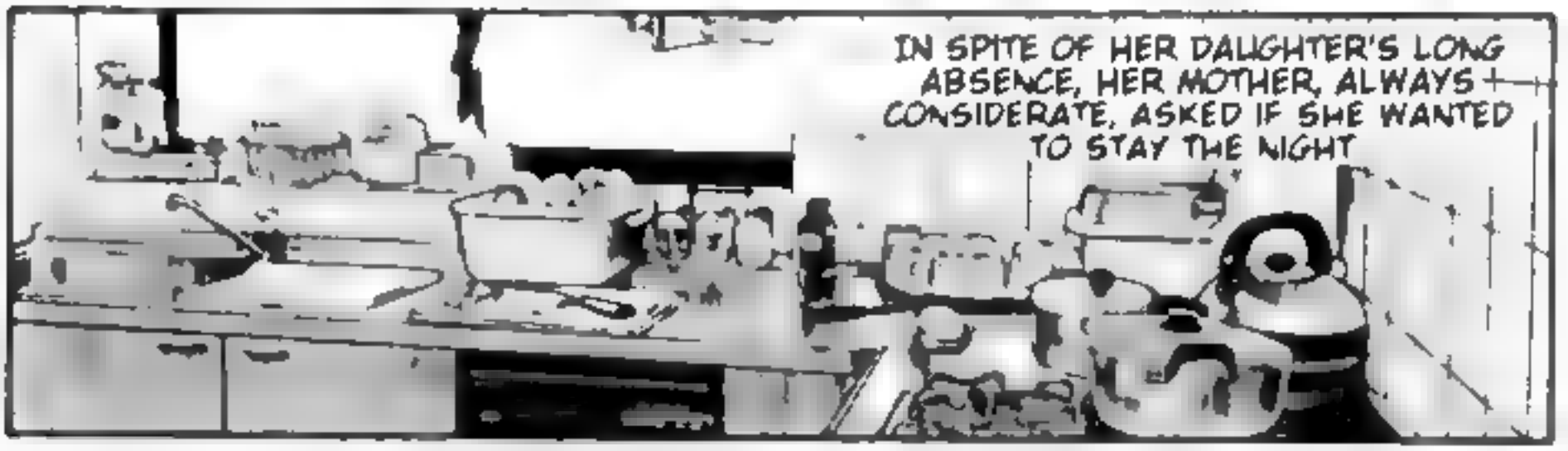
SE KI YA

IT'S YOU WHO DOESN'T UNDER-SHTAND!

DO YA KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I VISITED YOUR HOUSE?

YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT MY FA-MILY'S LIKE!


JUNKO, WHO CONSIDERED HERSELF MORE OF AN ADULT NOW, FOUND HER HOUSE OLD AND DETERIORATED AFTER SIX MONTHS


IN SPITE OF HER DAUGHTER'S LONG ABSENCE, HER MOTHER, ALWAYS CONSIDERATE, ASKED IF SHE WANTED TO STAY THE NIGHT

ON HIS WAY BACK FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HER LITTLE BROTHER HASTILY GREETED THEM BEFORE LEAVING WITH A FRIEND WITH TEKKEN 3 IN HIS POCKET.

YOUR FATHER THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN.
AROUND SIX IN THE EVENING, HER FATHER RETURNED HOME.

UNABLE TO MAINTAIN THE SILENCE, SHE TOLD HER MOTHER SHE WAS PREGNANT.

JUN-KO ...
HER MOTHER SEEMED TO SAG MORE WITH EACH SOB.

NOT EVEN MEETING HIS DAUGHTER'S EYES OR OPENING HIS MOUTH, JUNKO'S FATHER WENT UPSTAIRS TO HIS OFFICE!

SHE SAID SHE WANTS TO KEEP IT! DEAR?

JUNKO IS PREG-NANT AND SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHO THE FATHER IS!

DEAR !!

YOU'RE GOING TO BE A GRAND-FATHER!

DEAR!!

ARE YOU LIS-TEN-ING?

DEAR!

YOU DON'T WANT TO TRY TO TALK ABOUT IT?

...APO-LO-GIZE.

I'LL BE OKAY.

WHAT?

PLEASE ... JUST GO HOME.

GO HOME

DAT'S YOUR WAY OF LIFE, ISN'T IT?

BUT DON'T ASK FOR FOR-GIVE-NESS.

GAME BOOWY SP

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.

...IN YEHR FAMILY'S [redacted]

...FOR MEDDLING...

I FIRST WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE...

...FOR THE VEGETABLES FROM LAST TIME. DEY WERE DELICIOUS.

SIR, IT'S MARIA ABENO! I WANTED TO THANK YOU...

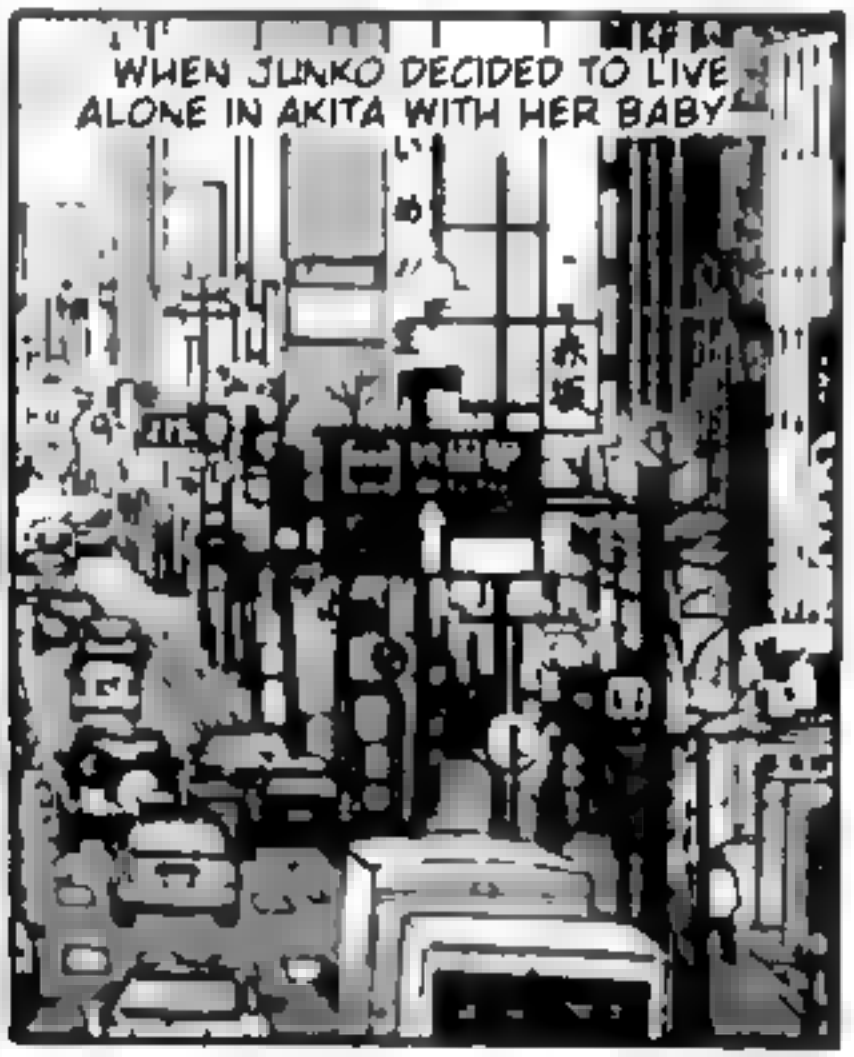
LET ME FOREGO THE NORMAL FORMALITIES AND TELL YOU SOMETHING.

BUT I AM JUNKO'S FRIEND!!

JUNKO UNDERSTOOD THAT THE REASONING OF AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD SEEMED NAIVE TO ADULTS, INCLUDING HER PARENTS.

THAT DAY, JUNKO'S FATHER REMAINED SILENT. HER MOTHER, WHILE TAKING MARIA HOME, TRIED TO COMFORT HER SON WHO WAS CRYING BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY ATMOSPHERE.

HER FATHER, TO HER SURPRISE, COSIGNED, AND EVEN ALLOWED HIS WIFE TO VISIT HER DAUGHTER AND GRANDSON



PEOPLE DON'T DO BAD THINGSH ...
6
IF YOU REALIZE YEH'VE DONE SOME-THING BAD, YEH'VE ALREADY DONE SOME-THING GOOD.
... BECAUSE DEY'RE BAD PEOPLE!

...I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CON-GRATU-LATE HER FOR THIS EVENT!

BUT EVEN IF YOU DON'T CON-GRATU-LATE HER AS HER FATHER ...

SIR, I UNDER-STAND THAT, AS HER FATHER, YOU DON'T APPROVE.

"CHILDREN BELONG TO HEA-VEN, NOT PARENTS."

MY MA TOLD ME THIS ONE DAY WHEN SHE LOST HER TEMPER:

17

...BUT WHEN I HAVE A BABY, I'LL RAISE HIM WELL AND HE'LL DO GREAT THINGSH IN THIS WORLD!

I MAY NOT KNOW MUCH...

GET CHANGED, WE'RE GOIN' SOME-WHERE "NICE."

18

SFX: WAA WAA WAA

SHA-DDUP!! STOP CRYING!

97 SORRY TO BE ALIVE

Now, a traffic update
Traffic is blocked on the Tohoku freeway at Ikarigaseki, Kosaka, Towada and Kazuno Hachimandai.
National highways 7, 103, 105, 282, and 285 are also blocked.
The authorities are controlling all roads coming and going from Odate.

SHIT, I ONLY HAVE SIX SHOTS LEFT!

GIMME SOME TOO!!

HEY! CHIPS!

2

I THINK THERE'S SOME LINK BETWEEN HIGUMADON AND TOSHI-MON.

DAMN IT! I HATE TRAFFIC JAMS!!

HI-SA-SHI I-KA-WA.

GO WA-KA-BA-YA-SHI.

NAME CLAS-SIC AC-TORS!

SHIN TA-KU-MA.

NO, NOT HIM!!

3

97 SORRY TO BE ALIVE

GROUND SELF-DEFENSE FORCE
AKITA GARRISON
ARAYA TRAINING GROUNDS

COME BACK !!

STOP !!

PUT THIS ON... WHAT THE?

HAH!

HAH!

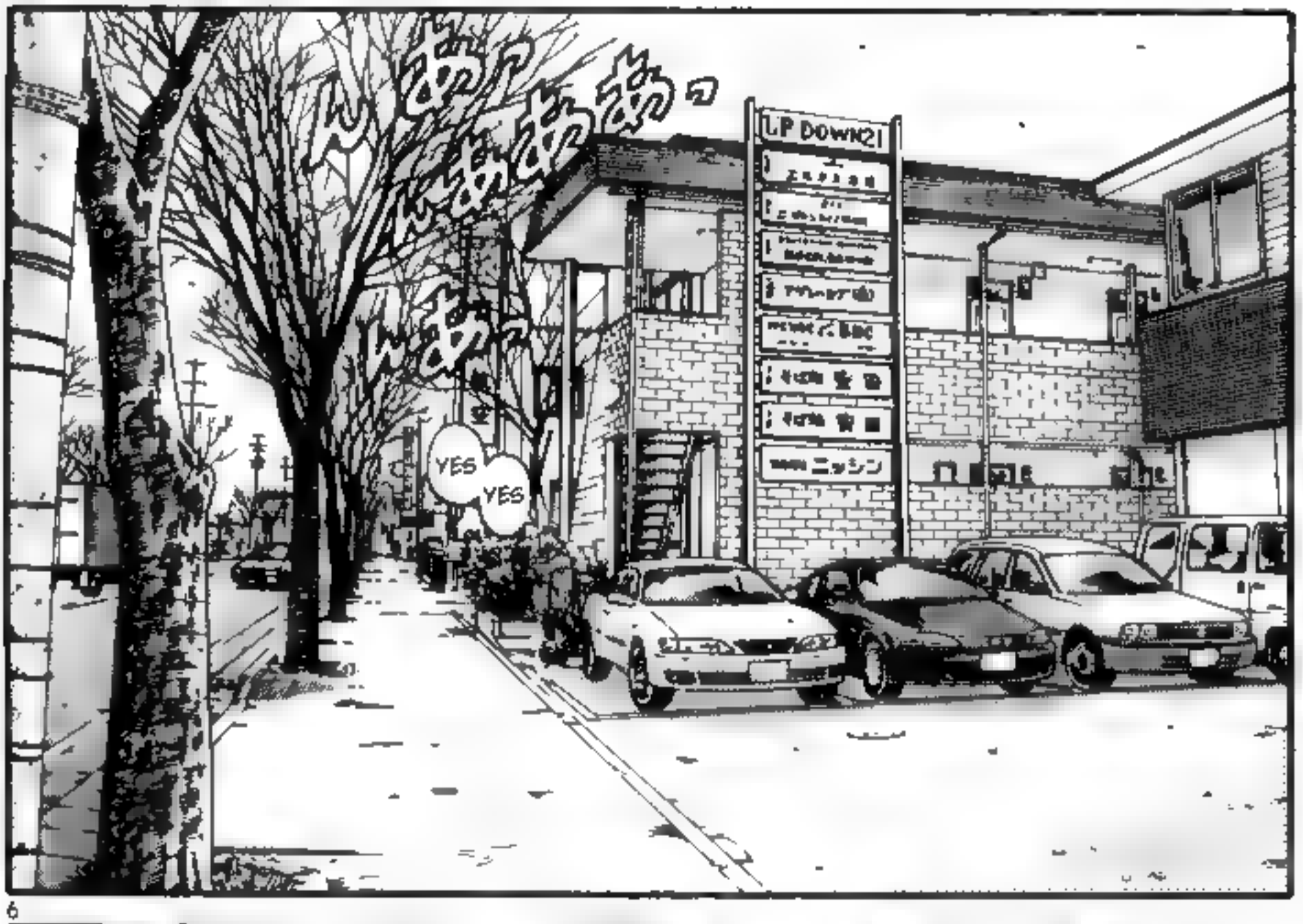
HAH!

AT THE SAME TIME
AKITA
KAWAJIRA
"MAISON ALICE"

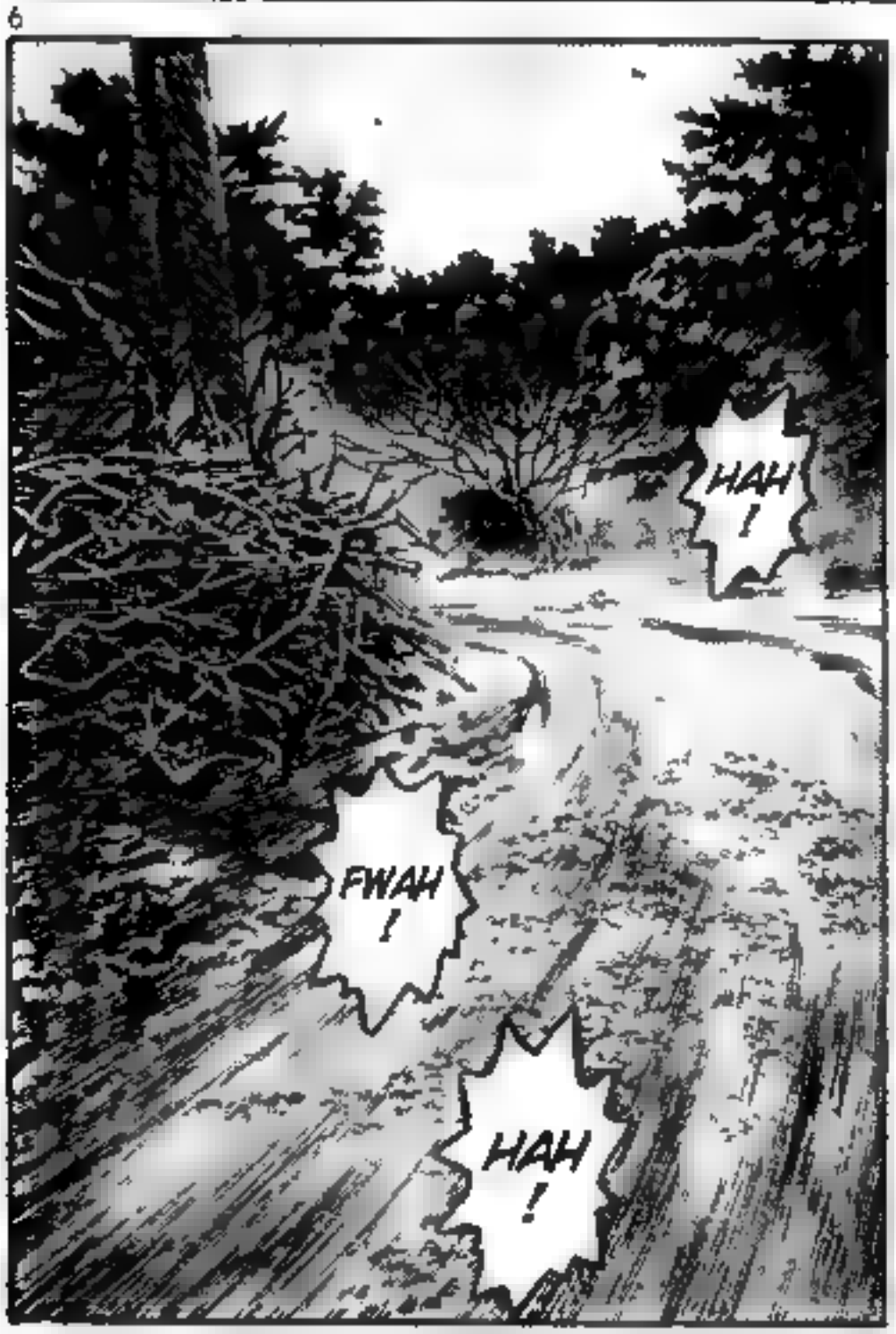
んあっ あ

5

DON'T JUST STAND THERE! CATCH HER!!


LP DOWN21
YES
YES

6


HAH!
FWAH!
HAH!

WE'LL BE AT C-MART SOON.
JUST A BIT LONGER.

YOU'LL STOP CRYING, WON'T YOU?

OW!!

HAA!

HAA!

HAH!

HAH!

HYAA!

WHY DID YOU SHPARE ME?

WH-

...WHY DID YOU TELL TOSHI NOT TO KILL ME?

MON-CHAN ...

8

MON-CHAN, AN-SWER ME!

MON ...

I THINK WE CAN TURN BACK NOW.

WHAT ?

DO YOU LOVE ME?

I felt Mon-chan's answer because his head was pressing againsht me.

I CHALLENGE YOU, TOSHI! A FACE-OFF FOR MON-CHAN!!

I WANT YEH TO LET ME TALK TO MON-CHAN WITHOUT AUTHORI-ZAYSHUN!!

NEW RULE !!

I won't budge!

PFF... WHAT-EVER.

I'M TELLING YA IT'S OKAY, IDIOT!!

SAY SOMETHIN', MR. "MY ASS IS YOURS"!!

I TOLD YA IT'S OKAY.

TOSHI, THE INVINCIBLE, THE MIRACULOUS, MON-CHAN'S "WOMAN" WHO'SH AFRAID OF A RIVAL!

zzz

zzz

12

We would like to inform all shoppers that with Christmas coming up, we are offering new specials.

JUNKO ?

SHH !

As in previous years...

HOW ARE YOUR PARENTS DOING?

UM... HEY...

THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE HE'S QUIET.

...AND THEY LEFT TODAY FOR HAWAII.

I WON A CONTEST...

IT'S CRAZY, WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ODATE, ISN'T IT?

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A MONSTER?

THEY'RE DELIVERING A PACKAGE AROUND ONE.

ACTUALLY, I'M MEETING SOMEBODY.

SORRY, I CAN'T.

YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE MONSTER? DO YOU WANT TO STOP BY MY HOUSE?

HM ?

click

The monster's tracks are very deep..

click

I can't believe what's happening in Odate!!

we have asked Professor Hattori, who came up with the name "Higumadon"...
click
Mommy, where are you?
click

WE'RE GOIN' SOME-WHERE "NICE."
MARIA, MY DEAR-EST RIVAL,
15

"AS LONG AS WE IGNORE THAT TOSHI-MON IS THERE, NOBODY WILL GET HURT." GOT IT?
WHEN WE GET TO THIS "NICE PLACE," A NEW RULE WILL BE ENACTED.

SHIVA?

Toshi decided on aliases for both of them. Mon-chan will be "Shiva" and Toshi will be "Kali." Their choice of nameeh makes me wanna throw up.

OSAMU DAZAI SAID...

NO!

No! That subject is too serious!

WHAT'S THAT?

HAVE YOU HEARD OF HUMAN DIGNITY?

"Shiva"... I'm pretty sure that's a god of destruction. Good, that doesn't change anything

SHIVA ...

I have to gain his trust!

What?

秋田道路地図

But... I know dis place!

MARIA !!

mart

I've been here before!

8
HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
NICE PLACE, ISN'T IT?

98 BLUFF

BOSS, DID YOU SEE THE EXPLOSION IN SENDAI ON THE NEWS?

MARIA !!

PER-FECT !

WHAT? THE BOSS IS IN ODATE?

MARIA...!!

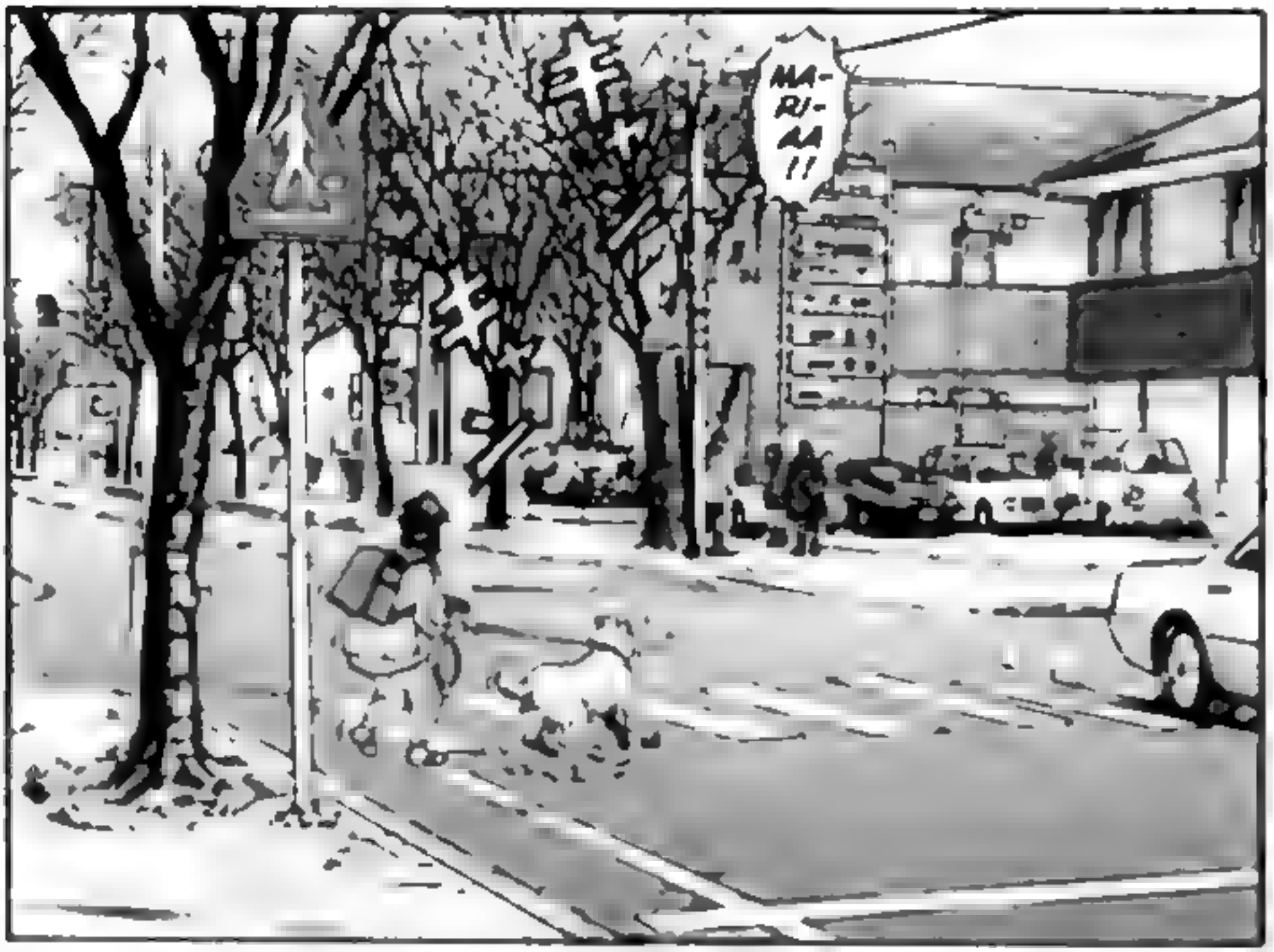
MARIA... IT IS YOU, RIGHT?

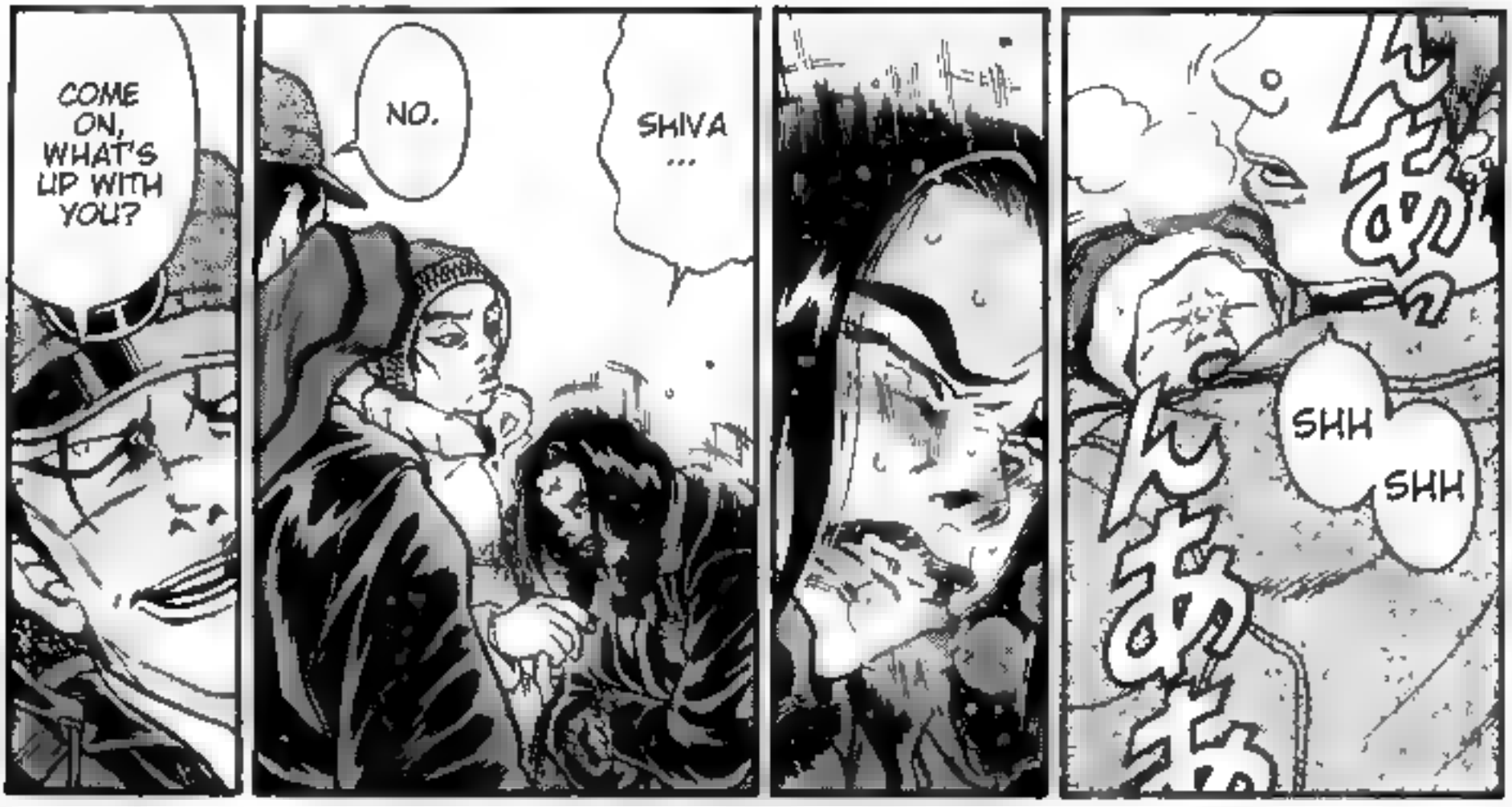
In the city, I hafta call dem "Shiva" and "Kali."

If I apeak without permissaupy, there will be penaltiesh...

I hafta ask for permission from Toshi to speak (exshept to Mon-chan).

A massacre! (Not me, though)




COME ON, WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
NO.
SHIVA ...
SHH
SHH

んあっ
んあっ
SH... SHE'S A FRIEND.

5

A FRIEND ...
PLE-ASHE ...

HUH?

SHE'S A FRIEND... SO IT'S DIFFERENT ?

OUCH! THIS GUY'S COLD!

C mart

6

I... I don't know !!

MA-RIA !!

No !!

FOR THAT PILOT, WERE THEY FAKE?

WELL THEN, TELL ME, THOSE TEARS BEFORE ...

"As long as nobody knows Toshi-Mon is there..."

"...nobody will get hurt."

8

MA-RIA?

BRR ...

GIVE ME YOUR HAND.

WELL, IF IT AIN'T JUNKO!

THE MON-STER ...

I'M ALIVE! THEY SAVED ME!! I-IN ODATE!! FROM THE MONSTER!!

DESE MEN ARE MY RESCUORSH! SHI... ER... MR. SHIBA, AND KA... ER... MR. KARITA!!*

DO WE HAVE ANY REPORTS FROM ODATE?

W-W-W-WAIT!

What ?

AS A PRE-CAU-TION ...

...I AM REQUESTING A TEAM TO BE SENT IN CASE OF CHEMICAL CONTAM-INATION!

Got it

HINAI - A SILVER MINE

WE HAVE DISCOVERED A HOLE PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE MONSTER.

RE-QUEST-ING THE ODATE CRISIS UNIT BE CON-TACTED. OVER.

We under-stand

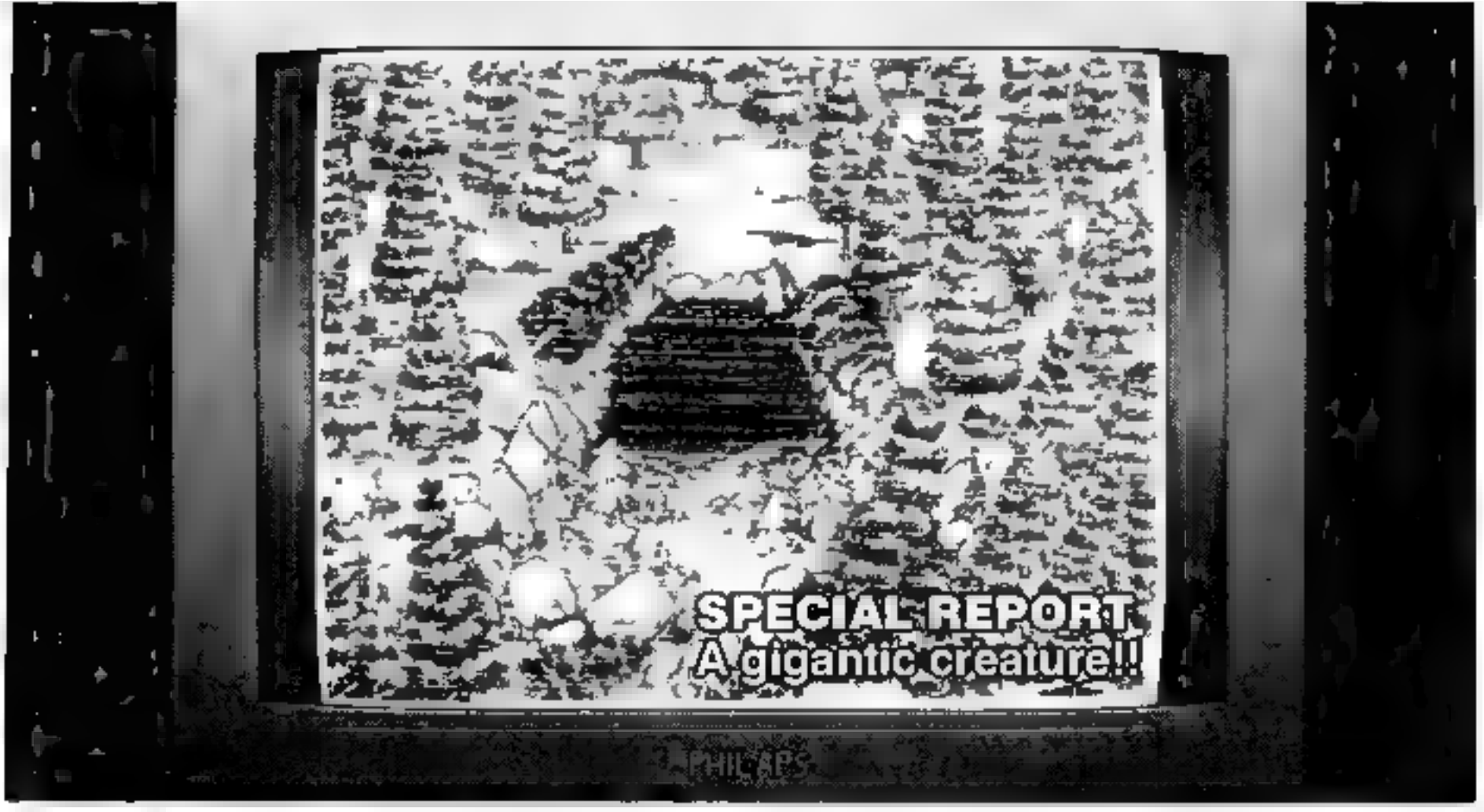
WAIT! WAIT!!

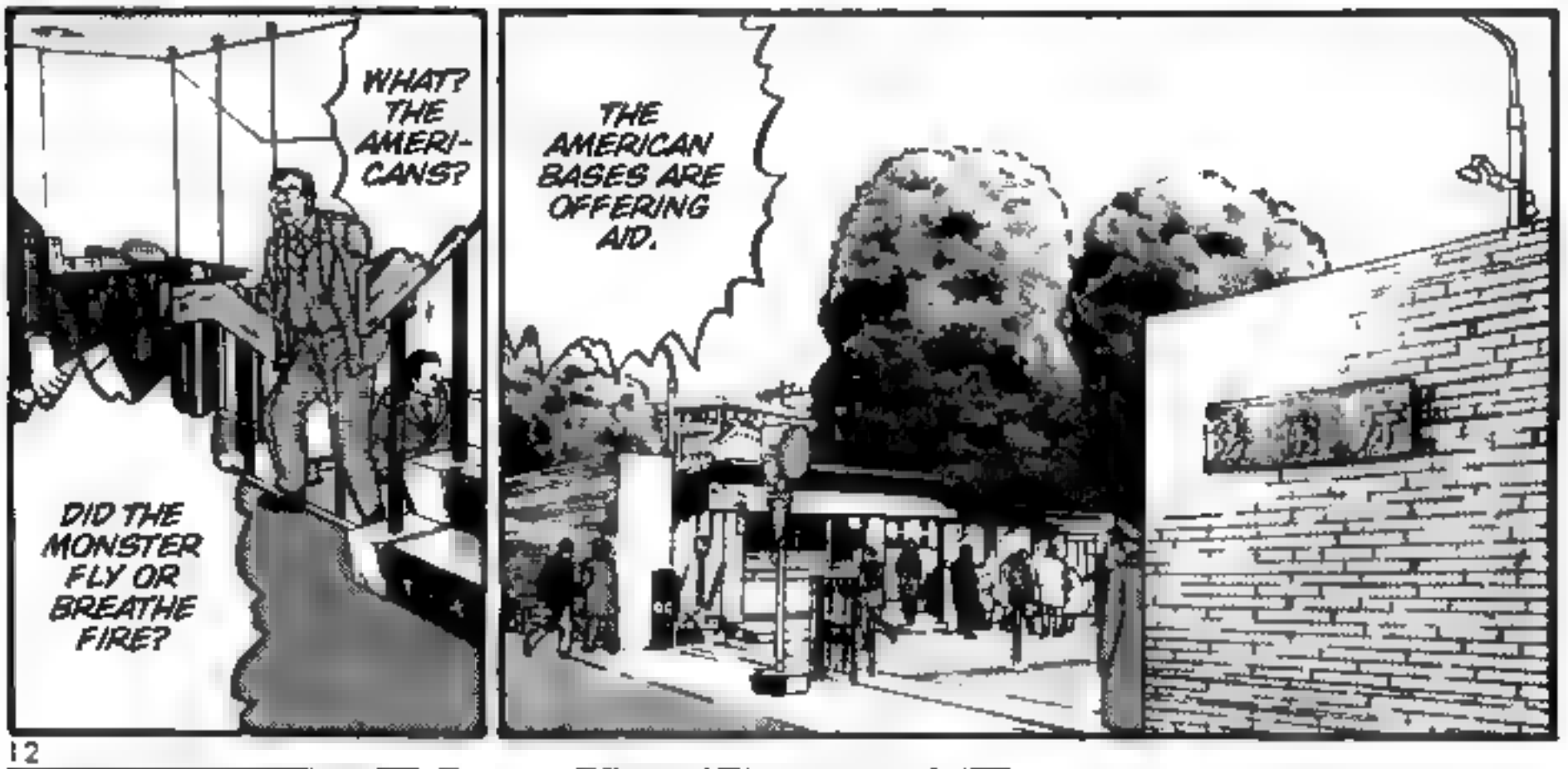
CAN WE SEAL OFF THE AREA?

Are you request-ing it?

YES! ACTU-ALLY... WAIT!!

I ALSO WANT THE AERIAL MEDIA TRAFFIC TO BE REGU-LATED.


SPECIAL REPORT
A gigantic creature!!
PHILIPS


WHAT? THE AMERI-CANS?
DID THE MONSTER FLY OR BREATHE FIRE?
THE AMERICAN BASES ARE OFFERING AID.

12

...BUT WE DO KNOW THAT ITS HAIRS FELL FROM THE SKY, LIKE HAY.
WE DON'T KNOW ...

124

WHERE'S IT TRYING TO GO?

IT'S GOTTEN BIGGER.

THE HOLE IS 15M IN DIAME-TER.

TOSHI-MON'S PROPHECY WAS TRUE, THEN?

TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE EARTH !!

WASN'T HIGUMA-DON 8 IN THE BEGIN-NING?

THEN IT'LL RETURN TO THE SKY?

HEY, ED! IT'S THE ORIENTAL MYSTERY !!

3 HOURS EARLIER (09:42 JST)

THE PENTAGON

GREAT !!

THESE PICTURES PUT HOLLY-WOOD TO SHAME!

IS THAT B G BEAR A GRIZZLY?

I'M NOT SURE ...

SHOULD THE STATES GET IN-VOLVED?

It dis-appeared after dev-astating the city

Let s take a look at the photo-graphs.

NEW YORK

WEBBER'S

...a monster appeared in the city of Odate in the Akita Prefecture

In Japan the morning of the 15th.

My name is Omata Tamao!

Odate City, Akita! From Japan!

Watch this, world!

16

SIMULTANEOUSLY

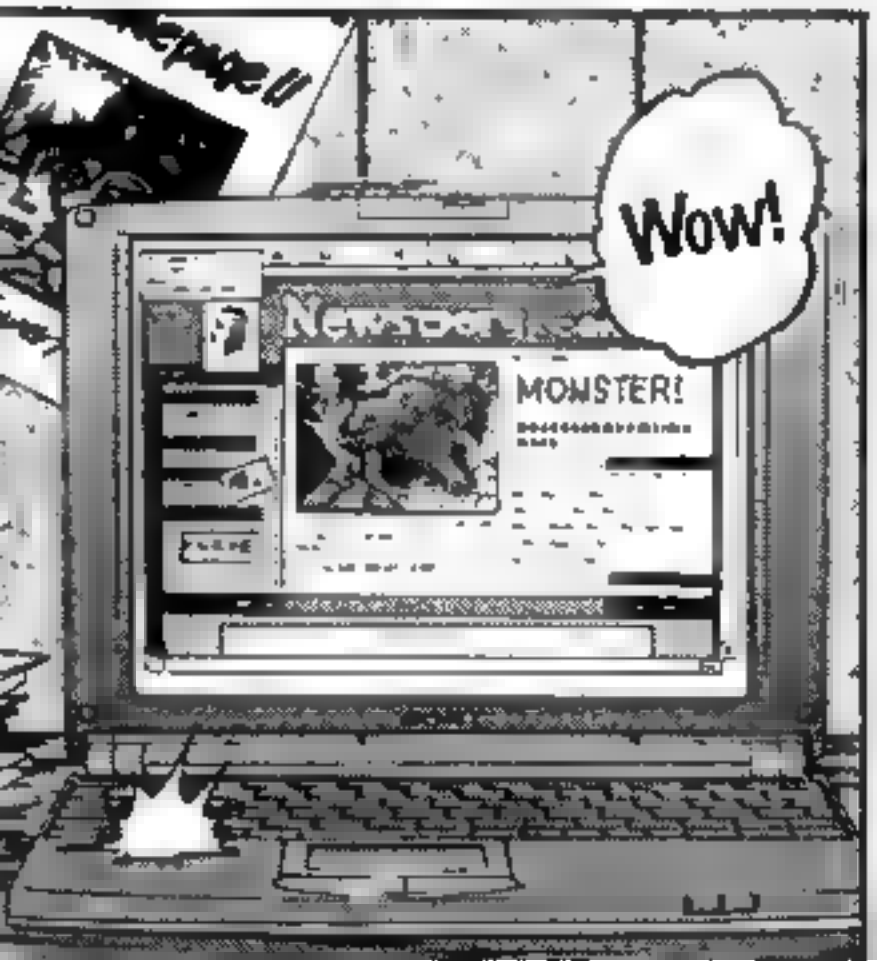
BEIJING

Mum!!

I don't want to die!

Mum!!

we offer the Japanese peop.e our deepest condolences...
And now, the Beijing Circus we are all so proud of...


Wow!
MONSTER!

Wow!

KAUTOKEINO, NORWAY
01:45 LOCAL TIME

IT'S A MINI-STRIKE!

THEY MADE A MONSTER COME FROM THE SKY!

NOTES

121 There is no distinction between "b" and "v" or "r" and "l" in Japanese, allowing Maria to alter their assumed names into conventional Japanese ones.

The World Is Mine
ザ・ワールド・イズ・マイン

VANCOUVER, CANADA
DECEMBER 14 · 20:37 LOCAL TIME

BUT, SHIHO, IT'S NOT THAT IMPOR-TANT.

YES, I KNOW HE'S A POLICEMAN TRACKING TOSHI-MON.

YOUR FATHER? YOU TOLD HIM ABOUT US?

SHIHO, WHY DID YOU GO BACK TO JAPAN?

YES, I KNOW ABOUT THE MONSTER. IT'S ALL THE NEWS IS TALKING ABOUT.

99 THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL, SHIHO? ARE YOU GETTING MAD AT PRESIDENT HAYES?

Here are photos of bombed civilian buildings

LIKE THE BOM-BARD-MENT OF AL-DONIA.*

LOOK AT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE WORLD.

*A FAKE COUNTRY BASED ON ALBANIA.

THE CASUALTIES ARE MUCH GREATER THAN TOSHI-MON AND HIGUMADON COMBINED.

BUT IT'S YET ANOTHER AMERICAN ATTACK.

IT'S NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATO.

click

Shohei Koike Kazushi Shimada, Akira Yamaguchi...

HE'S SO ANNOYING.

ROBERT DOESN'T GET WOMEN, DOES HE?

2

AOMORI SUBURBS
DECEMBER 15 13:37

Odate is in flames! On your screen are the names of known victims

BERLIN, GERMANY
07:02 LOCAL TIME

...was spread on December 13...

...the message from the terrorists Toshi-Mon...

A MON-STER?

IS IT GOD?

According to Japanese sources...

JAPAN IS FULL OF IDIOTS.

CAIRO, EGYPT
DECEMBER 15
08:02 LOCAL TIME

...appears to some to be linked to the sudden appearance of the monster and the Sendai bombing.

...a message with a prophetic connotation...

..."A great power from heaven will bring about the apocalypse"...

ROME, ITALY
07:03 LOCAL TIME

4

THEN WHAT IS IT? WE'RE SUCH IDIOTS!

WHAT? YOUR NAME ISN'T CARPACCIO?

We're live from the White House

MILANO

...the situation in Japan.

This only further aggravates...

NEWS! JAPAN NEWS!!

HUH? I DON'T GET IT! EXPLAIN IT, CARPACCIO!!

In a press conference President Hayes addressed the fifth bombing error

we have heard that they will stop in a week, due to peace talks

As the NATO forces continue to bomb Aldonia

AMERICAN INVER-VENTION? IMPOS-SIBLE! LISTEN, GEO... SHIT, HE HUNG UP.

LONDON, ENGLAND
06:15 LOCAL TIME

GEORGE, WAIT! WHY ME?

I'M NOT A TABLOID JOURNALIST! WHY ARE YOU ASSIGNING ME TO THE MONSTER WITH WHAT'S GOING ON IN ALDONIA?

HEATH-ROW AIRPORT, PLEASE!

...

ELIOTT NORMAN
BRITISH TIMES JOURNALIST

Suppose that one night, when you're feeling very sad...

...you are visited by an angel.

He whispers in your ear: "Why are you crying under this starry sky?"

6

CAN YOU TURN IT OFF? IT'S GETTING ON MY NERVES.

YES, PROFES-SOR.

PARIS, FRANCE
07:16 LOCAL TIME

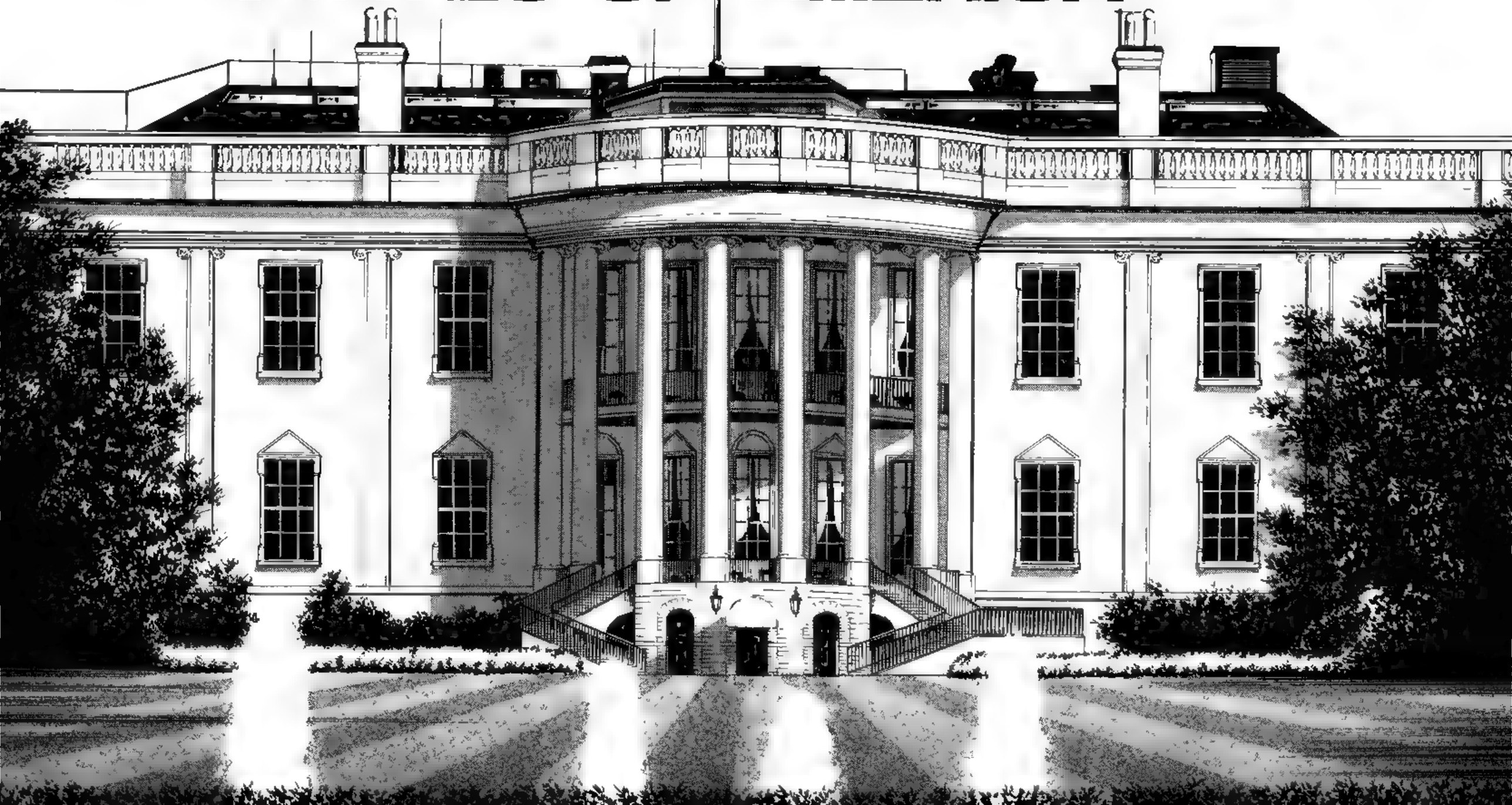
JEANNE, I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR OPINION ON SOME-THING
MOUSELLE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST
ISABELLE CHAMPETIER

WELL "WHAT'S JAPAN'S IS AMERICA'S"
SUPPOSE WE CAP-TURE THIS CREATURE WHAT WILL WE DO WITH IT?

YES !!
JEANNE WE'RE GOING ON A TRIP
ANY-WAY, I THINK

99

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



AND YOU ANSWER, "MANY PEOPLE ARE CRYING BECAUSE OF ME."

THE ANGEL ANSWERS, "IN THIS WORLD, THERE ARE NO TEARS ONE CANNOT DRY."

"BUT MANY LIVES ARE LOST."

WASHINGTON, D.C.

DECEMBER 15 01:22 LOCAL TIME

"I FORGOT THAT, ASIDE FROM LIFE, THERE WERE OTHER SUBLIME THINGS."

"PEOPLE ONLY LIVE TO EXIST."

AND THAT IS WHAT YOU UNDER-STAND.

ARE YOU NOT AMAZED BY THE GREAT DEEDS OF OUR ANCESTORS?

ARE WE NOT ALL MOVED BY THIS STRENGTH THAT BLAZES A PATH THROUGH THE FUTURE?

THE WHITE HOUSE

HISTORY DEMONSTRATES THAT WE ADVANCE IN LIFE IN ORDER TO ATTAIN HAPPINESS.

WE KNOW VERY WE... THAT HISTORY IS A PENDULUM, SWINGING BETWEEN JOY AND PAIN.

WE ARE SUPPOSED TO FEEL SADNESS, PRIDE, AND RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO DIED PROTECTING JUSTICE.

FIRST LADY JENNIFER, ARE YOU LISTENING?

SUPPOSE THAT TONIGHT, YOU FEEL VERY SAD AND YOU ARE VISITED BY AN ANGEL.

A BEAUTIFUL EXPRESSION, ISN'T IT?

TELL GOD, OH ANGEL, "GOD BLESS THE WORLD."

THIS IS WHERE MY SPEECH ENDS

THE NAME OF THIS ANGEL IS DOGWOOD HAYES. HE DOES NOT HAVE WHITE WINGS, BUT IS FILLED WITH LOVE AND GREAT POWER.

EXACT-LY ONE HOUR.

ROY, HOW LONG HAVE THEY BEEN WAIT-ING?

DOGWOOD HAYES PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.

YES SIR!

LEAVE ME AND ATTEND TO MY WIFE INSTEAD.

...I MADE THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WAIT FOR AN HOUR.

IN ORDER TO COMFORT MY WIFE...

YES SIR!

ROY!

...WHY YOU DON'T TELL THE PRESS ANECDOTES LIKE THIS.

I'M WONDER-ING...

15

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT CHRISTMAS IS TEN DAYS AWAY...

...AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE WAR WILL BE OVER FIVE DAYS FROM NOW!

THE ALDONIAN RESIS-TANCE IS PRAC-TICALLY CRUSHED ...

YES SIR!

MY OPENING STATEMENT: "LET US CEASE THIS FIGHTING IN... FIVE DAYS."

"MERRY CHRISTMAS, WE ARE VICTORIOUS."

WE'LL NEED A "PRIVATE RYAN."

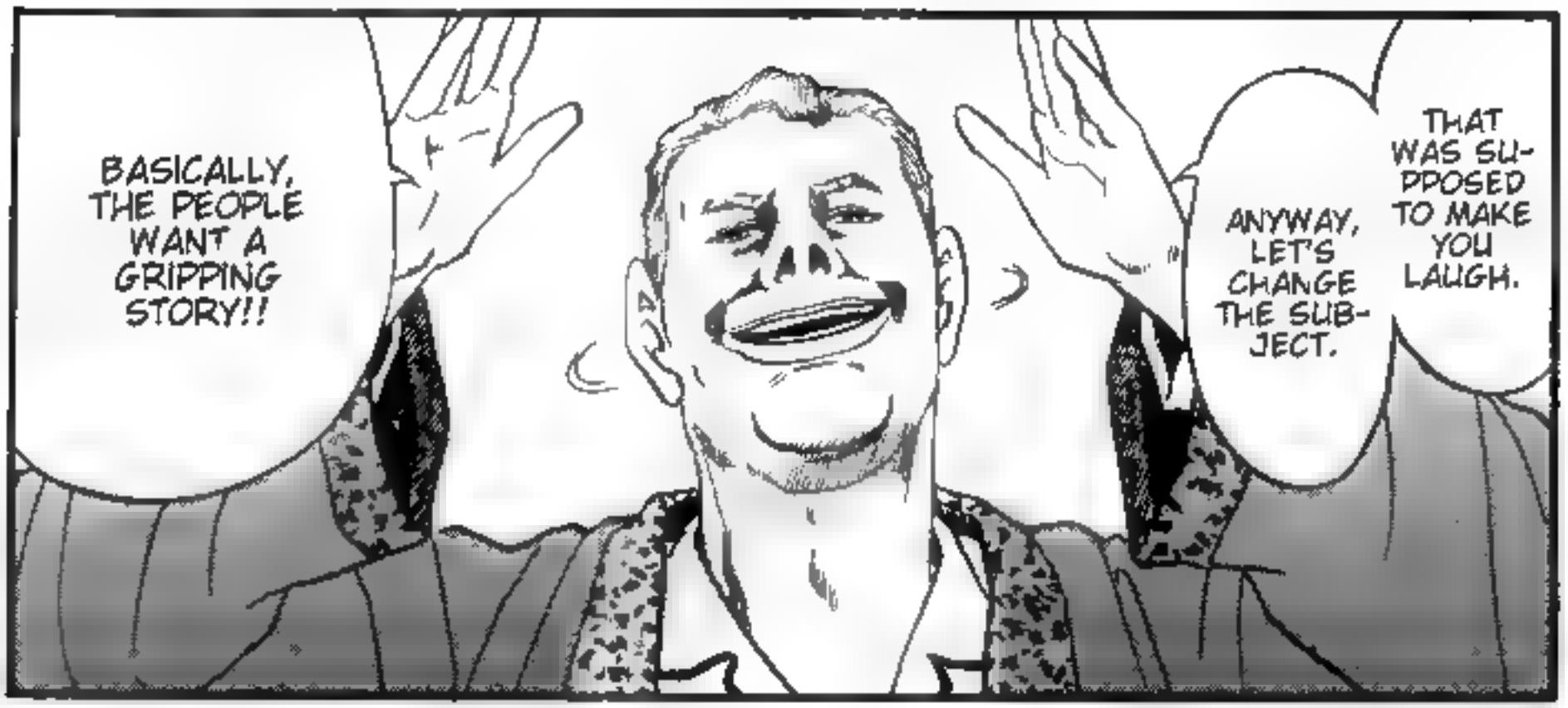
ORDER ME REINS AND A SANTA COSTUME!

ARE THREE SOLDIERS ENOUGH?

COME AGAIN, SIR?

THE RETURN OF OUR HEROES WILL BECOME EVEN MORE DRAMATIC.

SOLDIERS REPORTED MIA.


BASICALLY, THE PEOPLE WANT A GRIPPING STORY!!
ANYWAY, LET'S CHANGE THE SUB-JECT.
THAT WAS SU-PPOSED TO MAKE YOU LAUGH.

WHAT POSITION SHALL I TAKE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE STORIES ABOUT THE BIG BEAR AND THE TERRORISTS IN JAPAN?
SPEAKING OF STO-RIES...

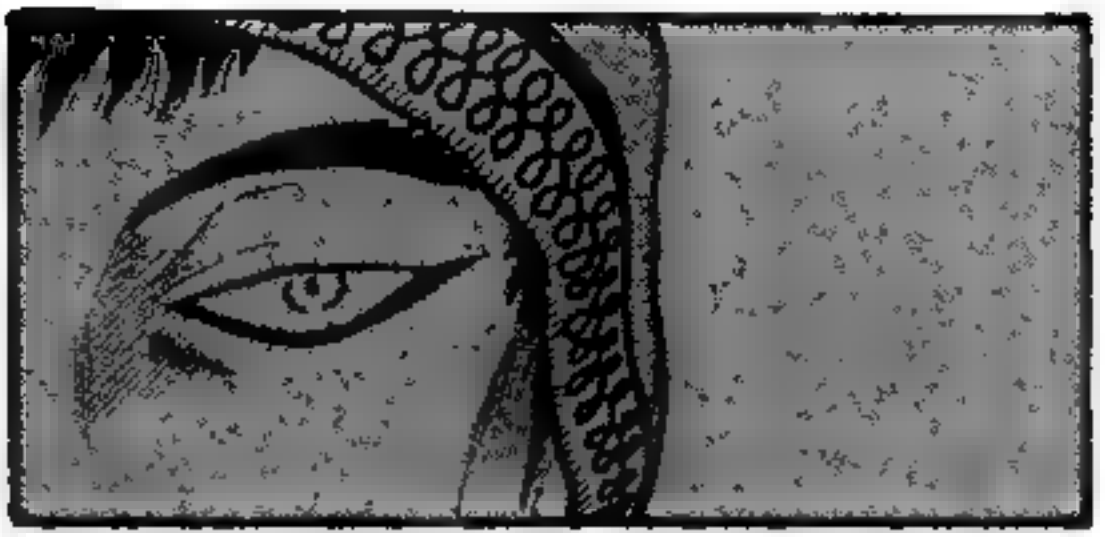
SO WHAT?
WELL, IT SEEMS THAT PRIME MINISTER YURI'S ENTOURAGE HAS CONTACTED THE MEDIA...

I FEAR THAT THIS HAS TO DO WITH DEMANDS MADE BY TERRORISTS.

由利勤平、告ぐ!!
全裸!!
全国放送で脱げ!!
拒否すれば
悲劇は続く!!

18

GET YURI ON THE PHONE.



The World Is Mine
ザ・ワールド・イズ・マイン

MR. PRIME MINI-STER!

YES, WHAT?

PRESIDENT HAYES IS CALLING YOU ON THE HOT LINE.

OKAY, OKAY.

100 HOT LINE

That's it? Did they decide?

They framed it, too!

PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE
DECEMBER 15
15:47

USAMI ...

WHAT DOES THE "KING" WANT FROM ME?

ER, WELL, I SU-PPOSE ...

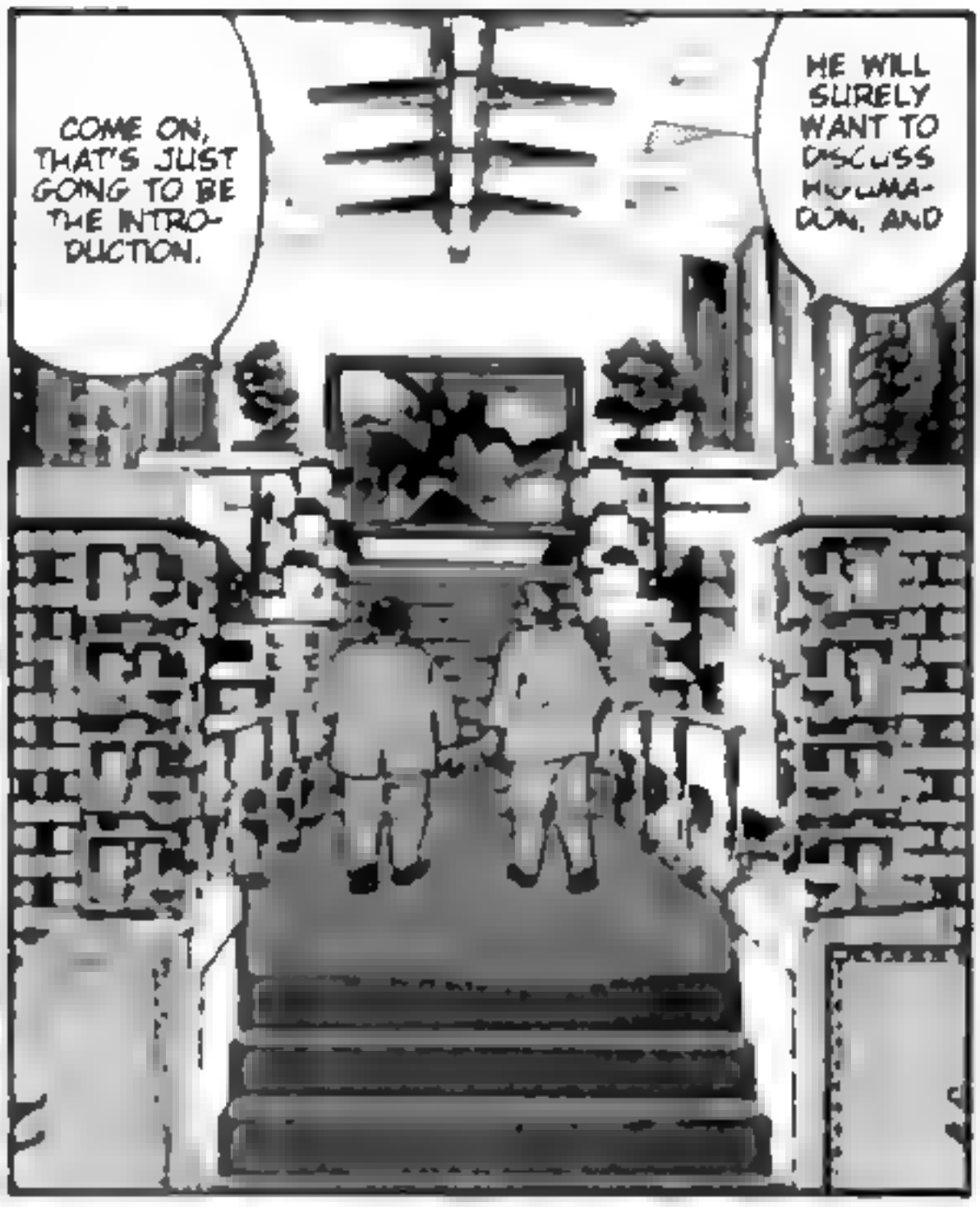
3

...the name of the creature that attacked Odate

HIGUMADON

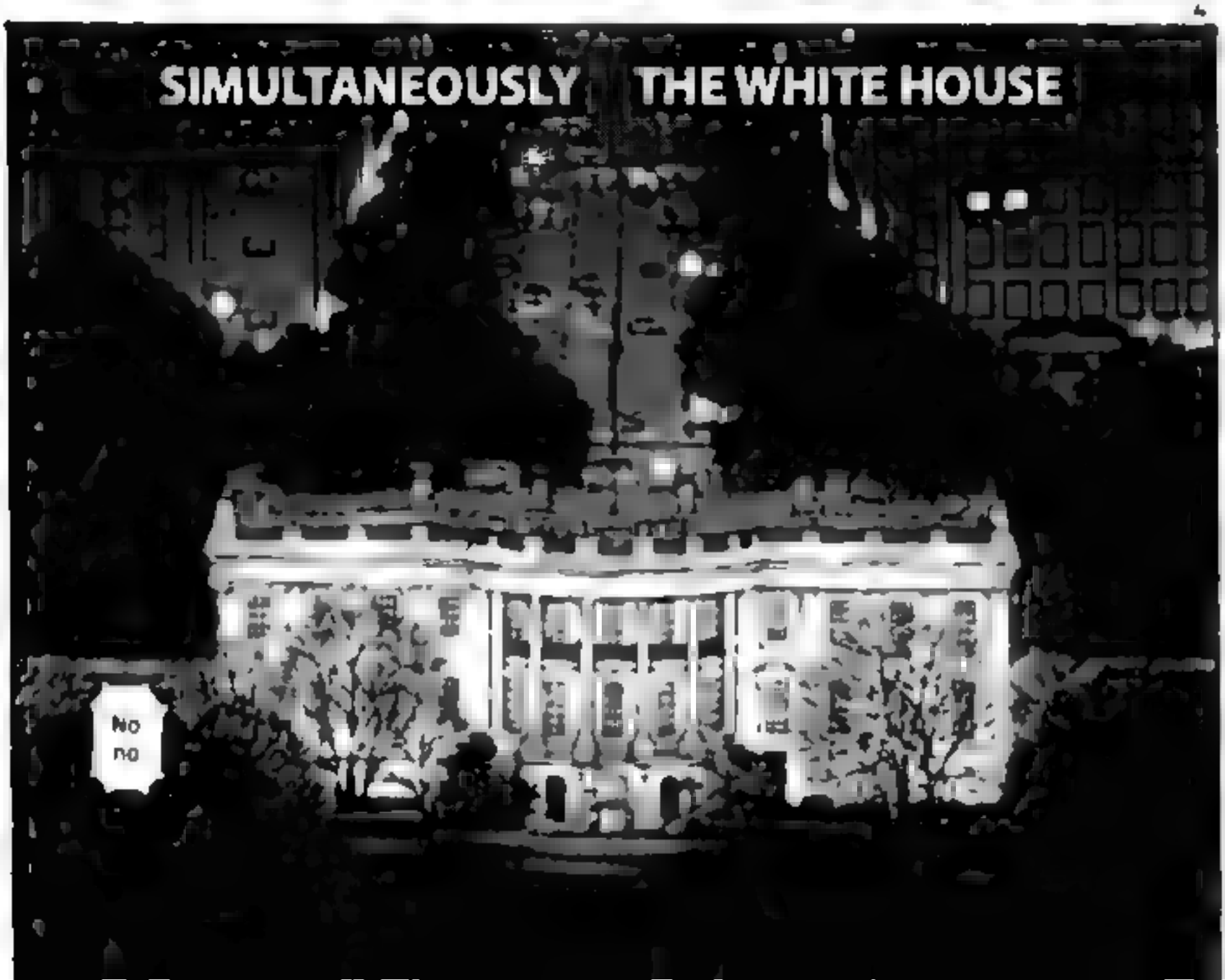
Assistant Cabinet Secretary Wabuchi has just announced...

THEN YOU BELIEVE THAT HE WISHES TO DISCUSS YOUR STRIP-TEASE?


COME ON, THAT'S JUST GOING TO BE THE INTRO-DUCTION.
HE WILL SURELY WANT TO DISCUSS HOUMA-DON. AND

HE WANTS TO TALK TO ME ABOUT THE "MONSTER" BETWEEN MY LEGS
YES

4


SIMULTANEOUSLY THE WHITE HOUSE
No no

Thank you, thank you, thank you

You are too kind.

5

... MISTER PRESI-DENT.

... VERY WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH ...

I AM ...

MISTER PRESI-DENT.

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT YOUR AERIAL CAMPAIGN IS GOING WELL.

LOOK, I'M FACED WITH TWO PROBLEMS HERE...

FIRST, WHILE I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO CALL ...

... MY HOT MILK...

Slurp

Slurp

MR. PRIME MINISTER ...

...CURDLED.

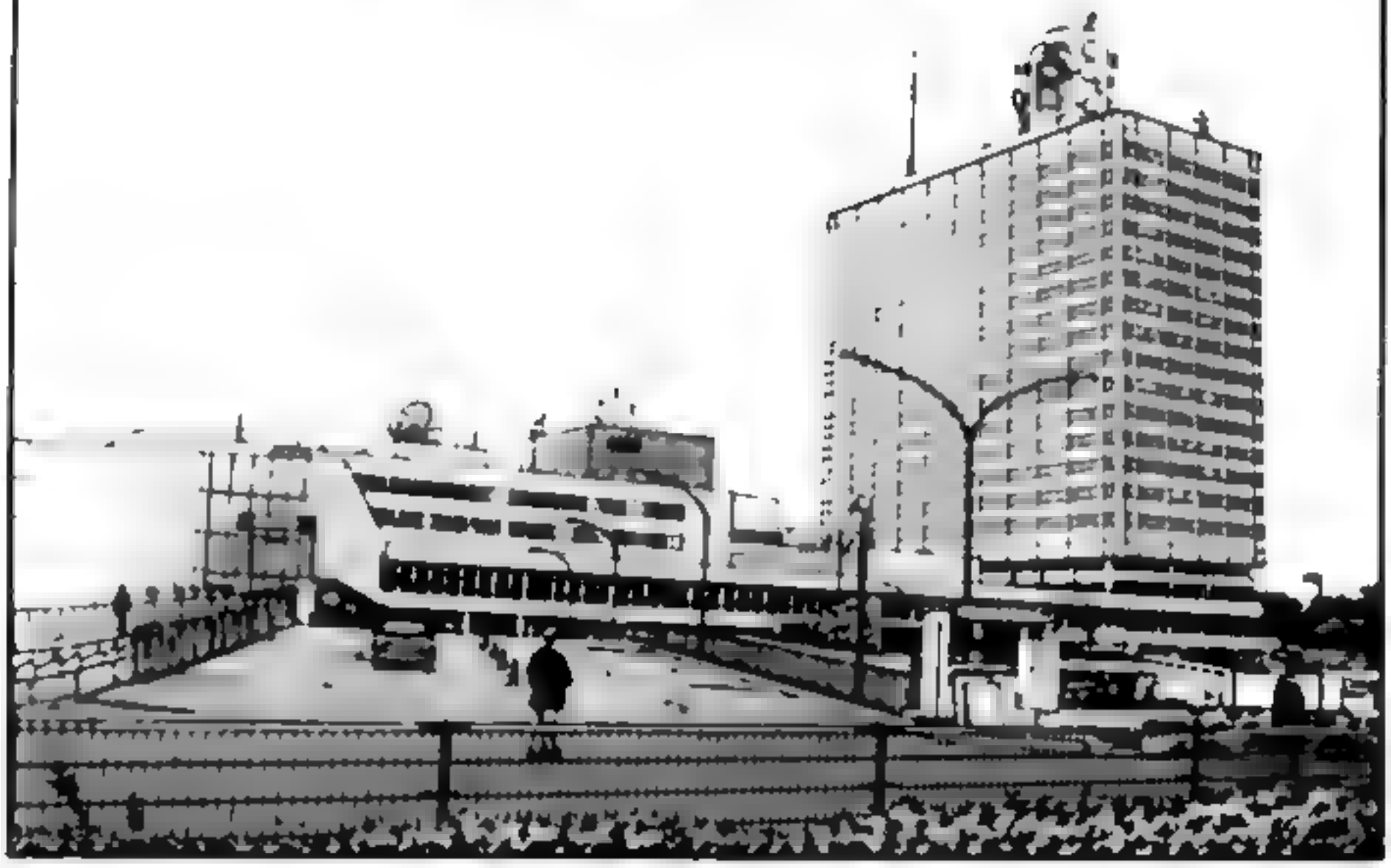
Now, my second problem...

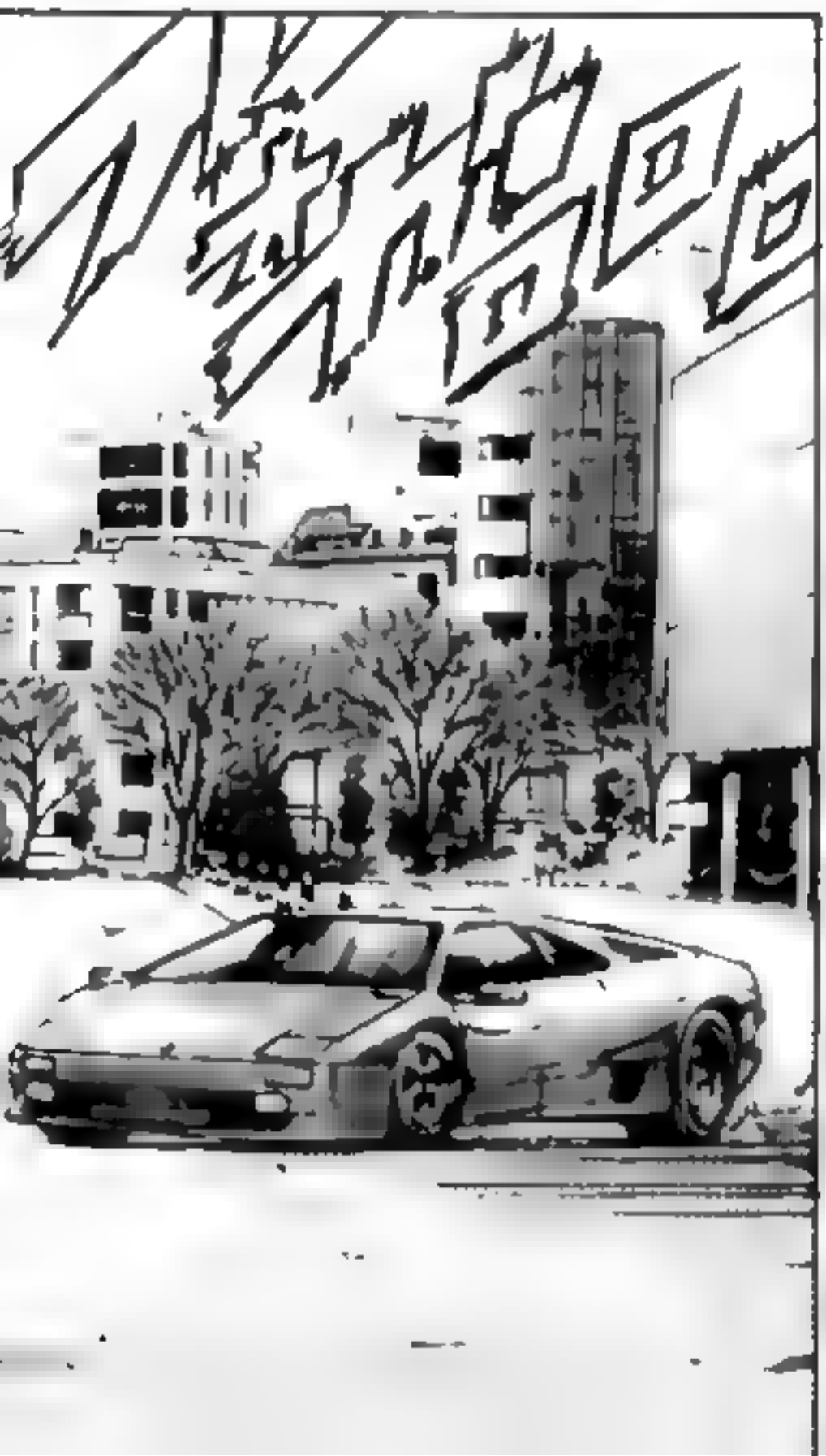
PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR THE INCONVEN-IENCE.

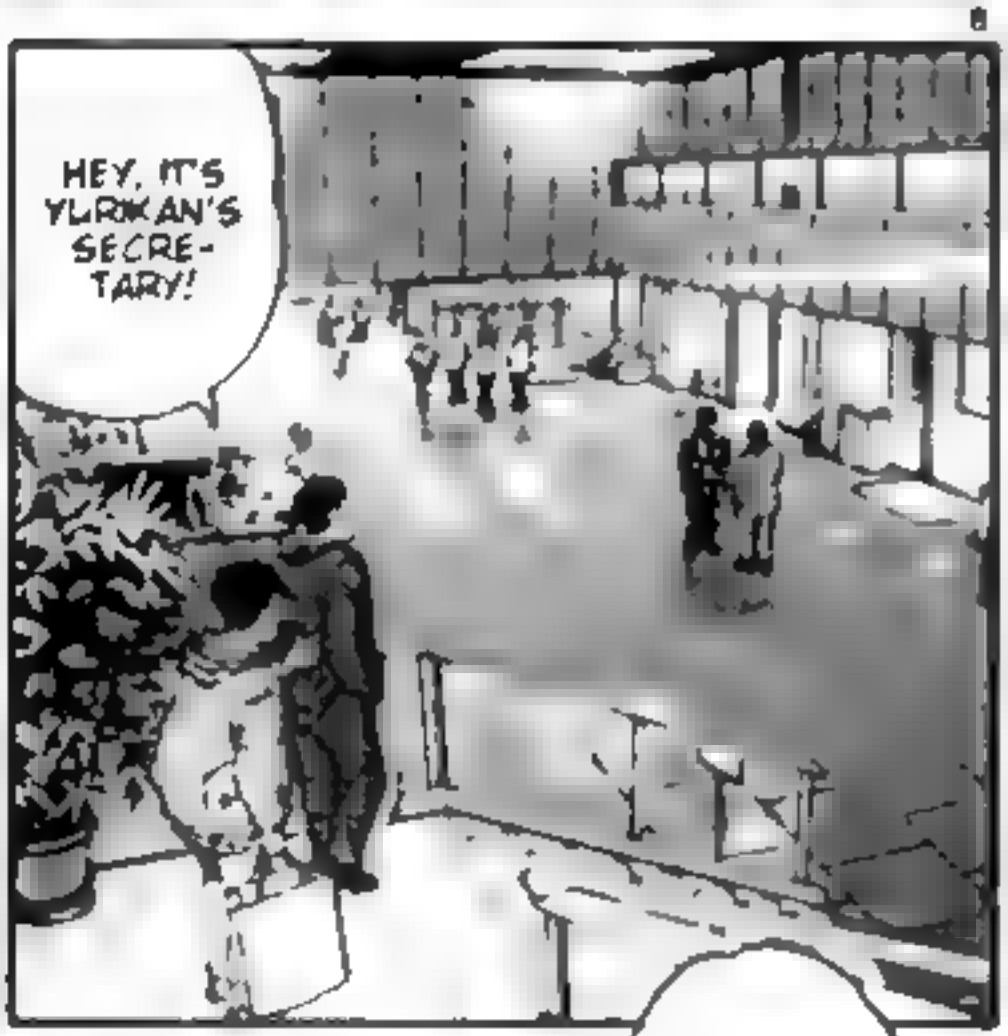
YURI ...

TELL ME, IS YOUR NUDITY PORN OR ART?

SIMULTANEOUSLY NHK







THERE'S JUMBO ITAM...

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ

IT'S SEXY.

hee hee

ha ha ha

YU...

...AS YOU SUSPECTED, I WI... UNDRESS.

MR. PRES-IDENT ...

EVEN IF I WERE ON THE MOON, AND YOU...

YURI!

...I STILL WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE A STRIP-TEASE SPONSORED BY TERROR-ISTS!

... WERE AS SEXY AS SHARON STONE OR CAMERON DIAZ...

TO CEDE TO TERRORISM IS TO RENOUNCE ORDER!!

... HUMAN-ITY ONLY NEEDS ORDER!!

...BUT THIS ONLY CONCERNS MY COUNTRY.

I UNDER-STAND ...

JUST AS A PLANT ONLY NEEDS WATER AND SUNLIGHT ...

TOM, BRING ME ANOTHER GLASS OF HOT MILK.

YOU OUGHT TO CALM DOWN A LITTLE.

MR. PRESIDENT, PLEASE DO NOT ANGER YOURSELF SO. THINK OF FIRST LADY JENNIFER.

YURI, I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU.

THAT WAS ONLY AN ERROR IN A TEST RUN.

THE LARGE BEAR THAT ATTACKED ODATE IS AN ANDROID DEVELOPED BY THE US ARMY.

...WHERE WE ARE DEVEL-OPING "HANDY-SIZED" NUCLEAR MISSILES.

WE ARE CURRENTLY CONSTRUCTING A FACILITY BELOW AKIHABARA ...

I'M GOING TO COME CLEAN AS WELL.

13

...that you can put an end to everything by getting undressed on the air?

Do you really believe...

I'M PLANNING TO PUT AN END TO EVERY-THING.

..THE BIG BEAR AND TOSHI-MON HAVE TO BE CONNECTED.

THERE IS NO REASON ...

I have only two cards in my hand: a police forced bogged down by the concept of democracy that your country brought to us, and Self-Defense Forces that cannot fight wars

Above all, the people are curious and show deference before an unfamiliar force

I wonder if the only way to stop Toshi-Mon is to concede to their demands

Disregarding reason even further, we can even say that this could become myth.

You're naive, Yuri. Stories have to be written

I believe that labeling an unfamiliar force as "evil"...

...is our best available option

...GIVE YOUR PEOPLE A STORY THAT'S PLAUSIBLE BUT AS SWEET AS HONEY!

JUST LIKE HOW OUR HAMBURGERS ARE CURRENTLY TRANSFORMING YOUR CULINARY CULTURE...

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY.

...NOR DO WE HAVE PATRIOTIC BOMBINGS.

WE HAVE NO HOLLY-WOOD HERE IN JAPAN...

...WE HAVE NO OPTION BUT TO FACE REALITY.

...BUT WE, WHO HAVE A DEFORMED SENSE OF LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY...

MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD BELIEVE YOUR COUNTRY'S RATHER SHALLOW STORY...

5

ISN'T SUBDUING THE RECKLESS THROUGH OVERWHELMING FORCE AND VIO-LENCE AN ACTION OF MAGNIFICENT LIBERTY AND SWEET DEMOCRACY?

EVEN IF A FAMOUS POET COMPARES STARS TO TEARS, THEY'RE STILL STARS.

YOU MEAN YOUR STRIP-TEASE?

I CAN BOAST OF HAVING A SEXY AND REAL BODY.

SO SIMPLE THAT IT BECOMES INTOLERABLE WHEN EVERY-THING FALLS APART.

THAT'S THE SIMPLEST RULE.

FORCE HAS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE THE ALLY OF JUSTICE.

YOU SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE MEANS.

YURI... WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?

...THE KING OF THE WORLD.

THE PRES-IDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ...

EXCEPT YOU'RE PITIFULLY WEAK

IN THAT REGARD WE'RE ALIKE

I SEE YOU WANT POWER. DON'T YOU?

YURI, I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY WORLD LEADER AS PITIFUL AS JAPAN'S.

ORDER DOES NOT EXIST WITHOUT FORCE.

GOD FORBID THAT A POWER GREATER THAN YOURS APPEAR AND STEAL YOUR "THRONE."
Yuu. with the way the world is, that's impossible
I wish you a long political career
• A CHRIST POWER FROM HEAVEN WILL RISE ABOUT THE APOCALYPSE

The World Is Mine
ザ・ワールド・イズ・マイン

READY...

CHEESE

ODATE

101: I THINK, THEREFORE I AM

The rescue teams are

- rescue teams are..

- escue eams are..

WHEN DID THE MASSACRE TAKE PLACE?

WHAT ABOUT THE MURDER WEAPON?

SAKATA ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

- rescue

Um, we are currently experiencing technical difficulties Now a message from our sponsors

...HIS FATHER SEIZO, 70, AND HIS MOTHER KAYO, 67.

AND

THE STORE OWNER KIYOHIKO SAKATA, 43, H S WIFE NOBUKO, 41...

SO

WE HAVE FOUND FOUR BODIES.

PLEASE REMAIN CALM.

AH

ER

LUM

TOSHI-MON DID IT, RIGHT?

THANK YOU.

THE BODIES WERE THEN PLACED IN THE BATHROOM IN ORDER TO BE CUT INTO PIECES.

W-W-W-WAT, PLEASE!! WHAT ABOUT TOSHI-MON?

UM

IT APPEARS THAT THE MURDER WEAPON WAS A VERY SHARP KNIFE.

MRS. SAKATA WAS PROBABLY KILLED AFTER THE OTHER THREE.

WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENING IN ODATE, WE CAME HERE...

...FOR ONLY FOUR DEAD?

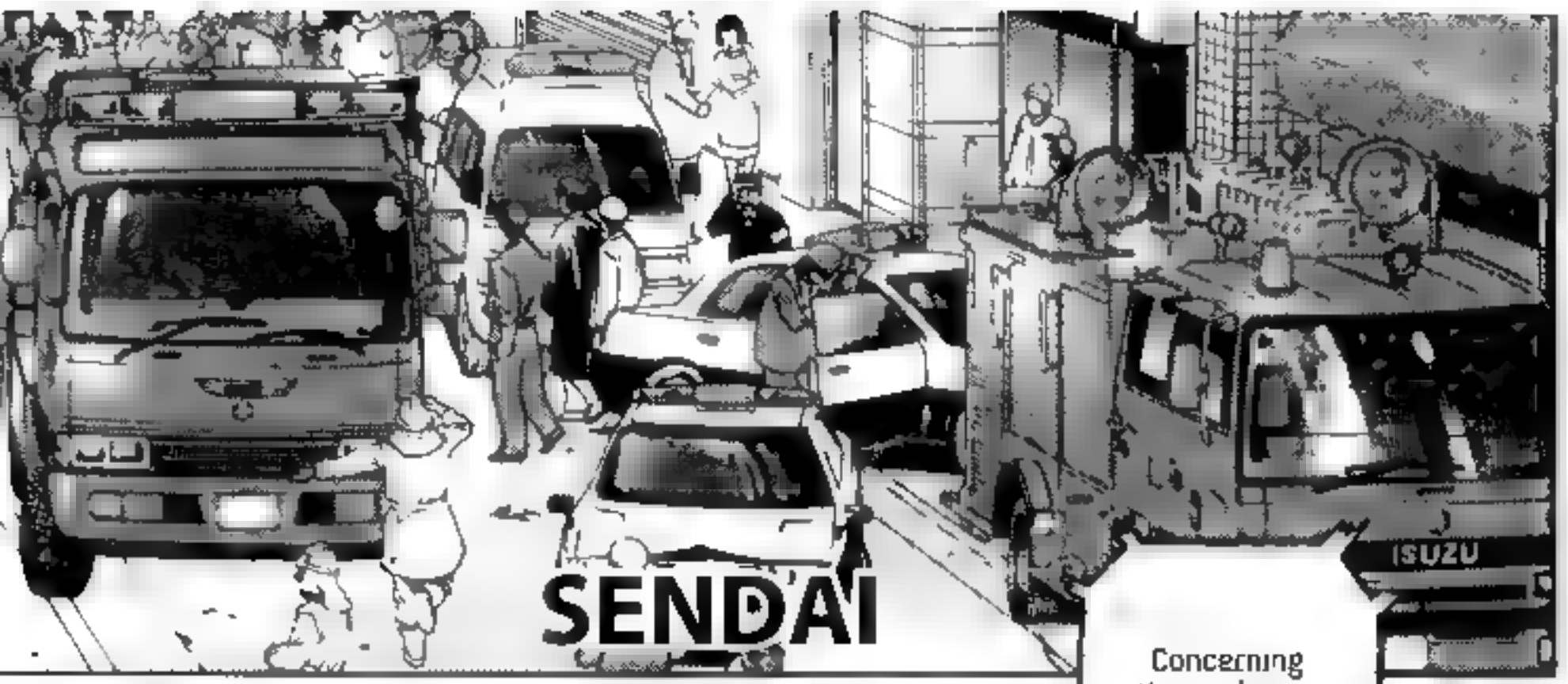
To Be Continued

ER

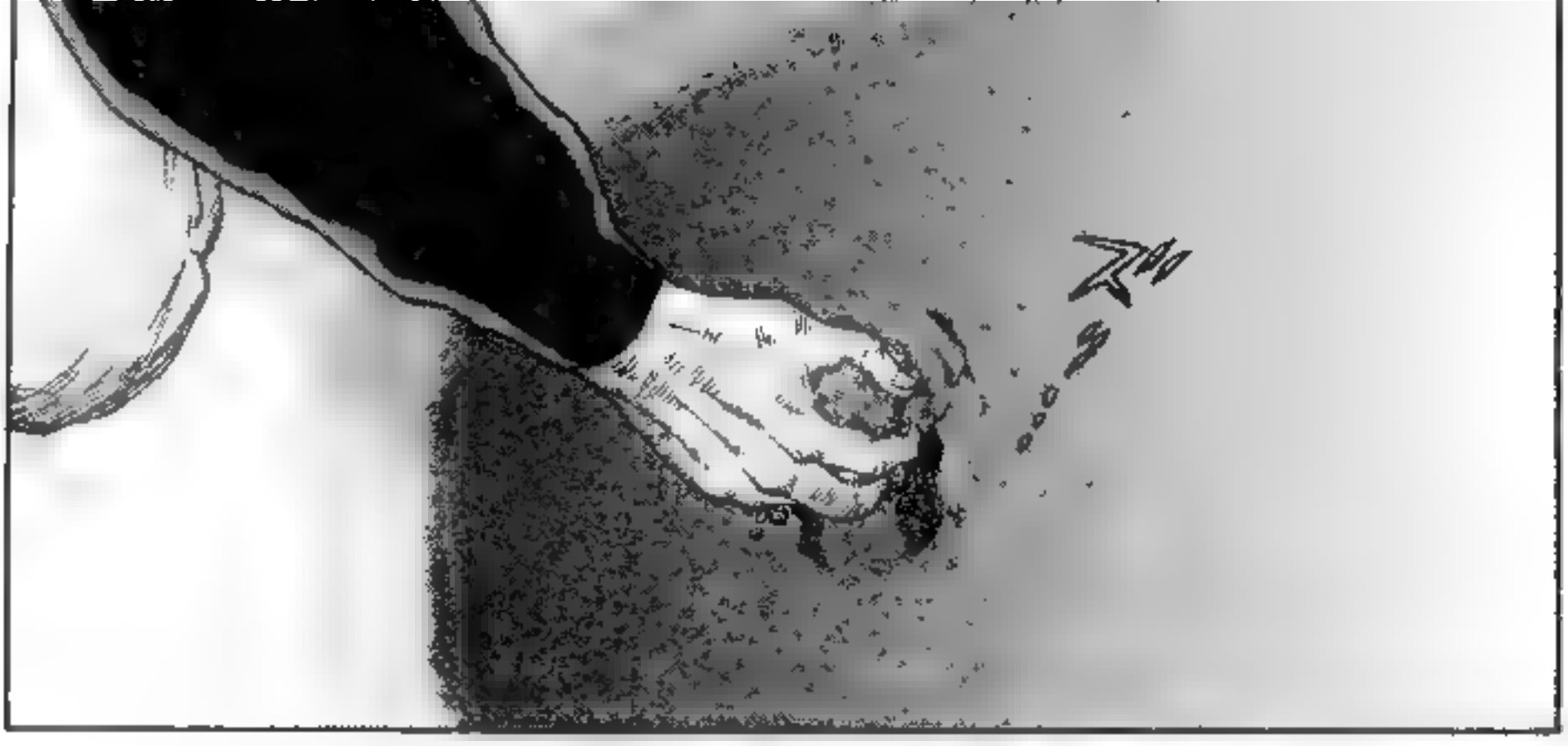
WE WILL ELABORATE ON THE DETAILS DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

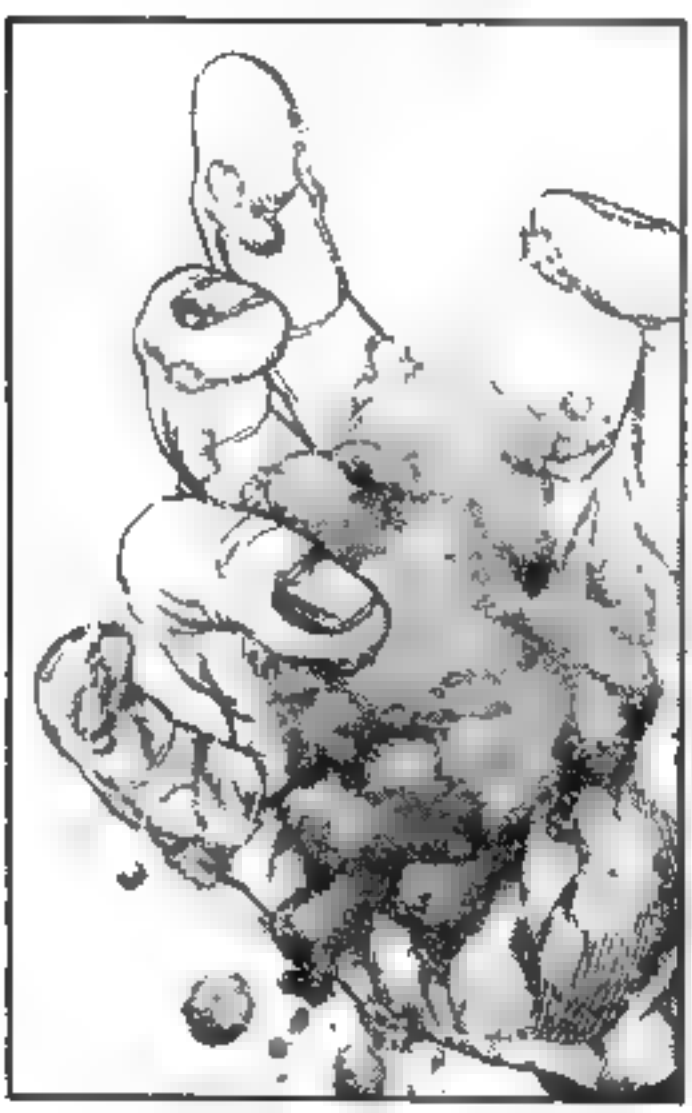
THE MURDERER APPARENTLY LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND!

101 I THINK, THEREFORE I AM


SENDAI
ISUZU
Concerning the explosion in Sendai, in Miyagi Prefecture...
...we have determined the number of victims
The number has risen to two dead and 36 wounded, three in critical condition

ODATE - OTAKI HOT SPRINGS
YEAH ...
I WAS EXPECTING GREATER DAMAGE.





slurp...

We just spotted our famous witness

DOES HE HAVE A GUN ?

YES

HELLO THERE!!

ODATE CENTRAL POLICE STATION

THERE'S A RESTAURANT STILL OPEN IN THIS DUMP?

DELI-VERY ?

HERE, WE ORDERED NOODLES.

.. AND YOU WERE FACE-TO-FACE WITH THIS MON. HOW'D YOU KNOW WHAT IT WAS?

THE MONSTER WAS AP-PROACH-ING...

WELL THEN, WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A GRENADE?

VERIFY THAT AT THE CITY HOSPI-TAL!

PLUS, I SAW A FRAG-MENT.

I HEARD THAT SOUND DURING THE WAR.

SOUND ?

FROM THE SOUND ...

SORRY, MR. DETECTIVE ...

BUT ...

TEL

O!! CALL THE HOSPITAL!

IT'S GETTING ANNOYING.

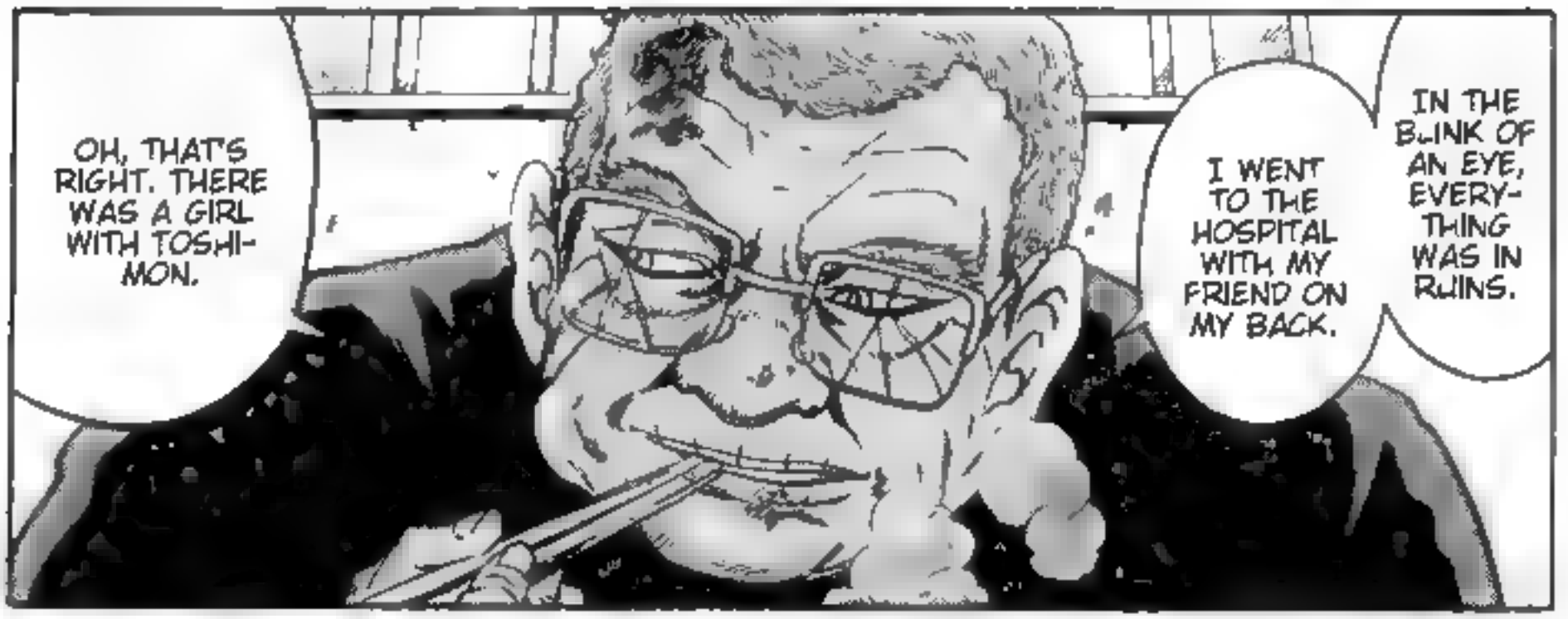
COULD YOU PLEASE STOP FIDGETING?

YOU COULD FILL A BUCKET WITH THAT

AND YOU THERE, THE ONE WITH ALL THE SPIT...

AH...

THEN "IT" PASSED.


OH, THAT'S RIGHT. THERE WAS A GIRL WITH TOSHI-MON.
I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL WITH MY FRIEND ON MY BACK.
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, EVERY-THING WAS IN RUINS.

A GIRL ?

A HIGH-SCHOOL-ER.
SHE TOOK — RATHER, THEY MADE HER TAKE — A PICTURE.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SIGNAL HER OR SOME-THING?

YOU DIDN'T CONSIDER THAT SHE WAS IN DAN-GER?

BAM!

WHAT?

CAUSE IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.

MOTHER
FUCKE-
EEER!!
I OB-
JECT.

I ALSO KILLED MEN IN THE WAR.

I USED TO MAKE A LIVING KILLING ANIMALS.

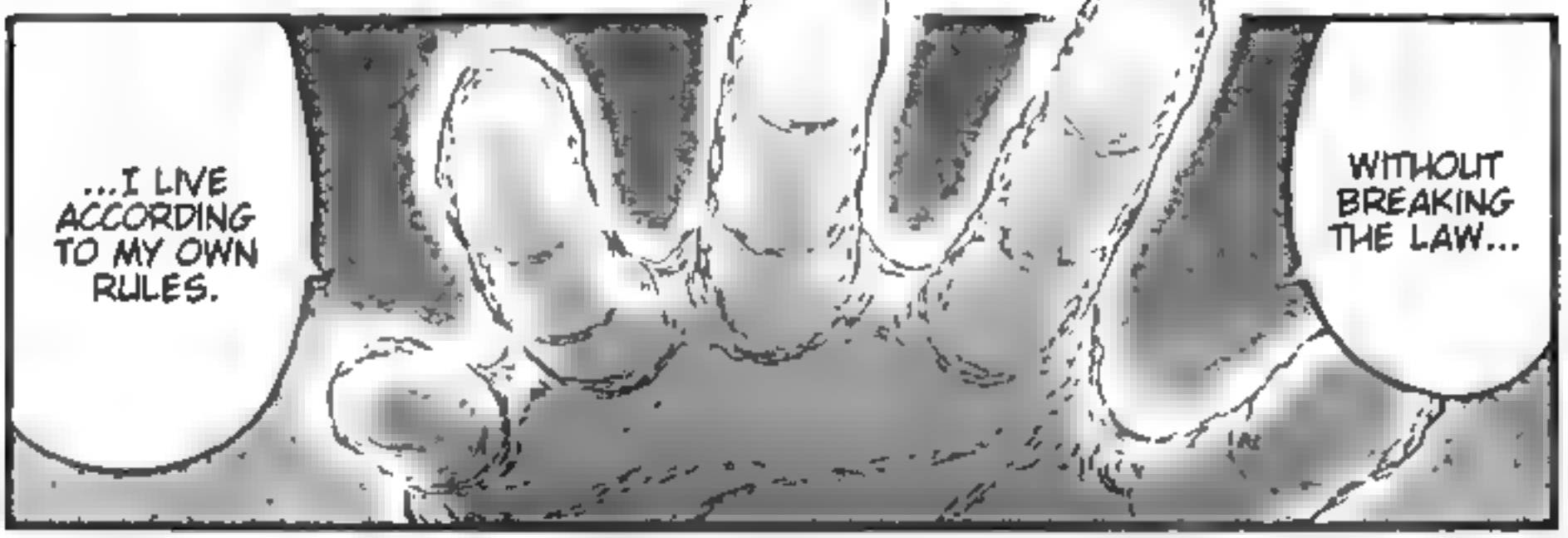
4

...I ALSO UNDER-STAND THE FASCINATION AND FEAR THAT CRE-ATES IN OTHERS, LIKE YOU.

I GUESS... I'M BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

ON THE OTHER HAND ...

SO I HAVE AN IDEA OF THE PLEASURE OF KILLING.


...I LIVE ACCORDING TO MY OWN RULES.
WITHOUT BREAKING THE LAW...

5

HE'S A MON-STER.

THIS "MON" YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR ISN'T A MAN.

16

W-WATCH WHAT YOU SAY, Y-YOU OLD FART!!

HE'S A DE-MON.

HE'S NOT A MAN.

IF YOU WANT TO CATCH HIM, I ADVISE YOU TO BE CAREFUL.

INSTEAD, THINK OF THE CITIZENS YOU OUGHT TO BE PROTECTING.

COM-MON SENSE ?

SHIOMI, TEACH THIS IDIOT COMMON SENSE.

...

.... COMMON SENSE IS BULL-SHIT.

FOR ME, FROM THE VERY BEGINNING ...

THERE ARE ALWAYS PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SEE THIS KIND OF SPECTACLE.

DID THOSE PEOPLE EVER IMAGINE THOSE TWO MON-STERS COMING?

WHAT HAPPEN-ED OUT THERE?

SHUT UP OR I'LL REVOKE YOUR GUN LICENSE.

TWO PEOPLE, ONE CARRYING AN INJURED PERSON COVERED IN A BLANKET ON HIS BACK...

...WERE SEEN GETTING INTO THAT HELICOPTER!!

WE ARE QUESTIONING POSSIBLE WITNESSES.

A SELF-DEFENSE FORCES HELICOPTER WHICH LANDED ON THE RIVERBANK HAS DISAPPEARED.

Yes volunteers

A collection?

18

SFX: TWEET

THAT'S IT?

According to the crisis unit

...the final Higumadon attack death count is 300.

COME ON, SOO!!

102 GAME

AKITA KAWAJIRI "MAISON ALICE"

MARIA, YOU L S-TENIN'?
HE SLEPT OVER AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE YESTERDAY BUT I CAN'T GET A HOLD OF HIM.
YEAH, MY LITTLE BROTHER.
HMM? KATSU-NORI?

JLA
A SEM
LIKE OF
NOTHI
ORLD
AH!!

FLASH
CAUGHT IN
LAVA

ANY-
WAY

...AND MR. SHIBA.

MR. KARITA...

As long as nobody knows Toshi-Mon is there, nobody will get hurt!!

My only chance is to gain their trust.

SHA-DDUP! STOP CRY-ING!

MAKE YOUR-SELVES AT HOME.

SFX: WAAH WAAH WAAH

102 GAME

ｶﾁｬｯ

MY PARENTS WERE REALLY LUCKY.

ﾌﾞｰﾝ

AS I SAID IN MY LETTER, THEY LEFT FOR HAWAII YESTERDAY.

ﾐｰﾝﾐｰﾝ

I'M SURE THEY'LL HEAR ABOUT ODATE IN THE NEWS.

MR. KARI-TA?

I STILL... HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO...

MR. KARI-!

ドサッ

ヒソヒソ

TO-
SHI
...

Wearin' shoes inside ... and "Toshi" ?

Come on in...

...MR. SHIBA

WAIT A MINUTE!!

8 * SEE END OF CHAPTER.

Quick, think up a name: Toshizo, Toshimichi, Satoshi...

Anything that soundsh similar: Otoshita, Kotoshi, Urudoshi, Toshi...*

THAT'S ...

MA-RIA ...?

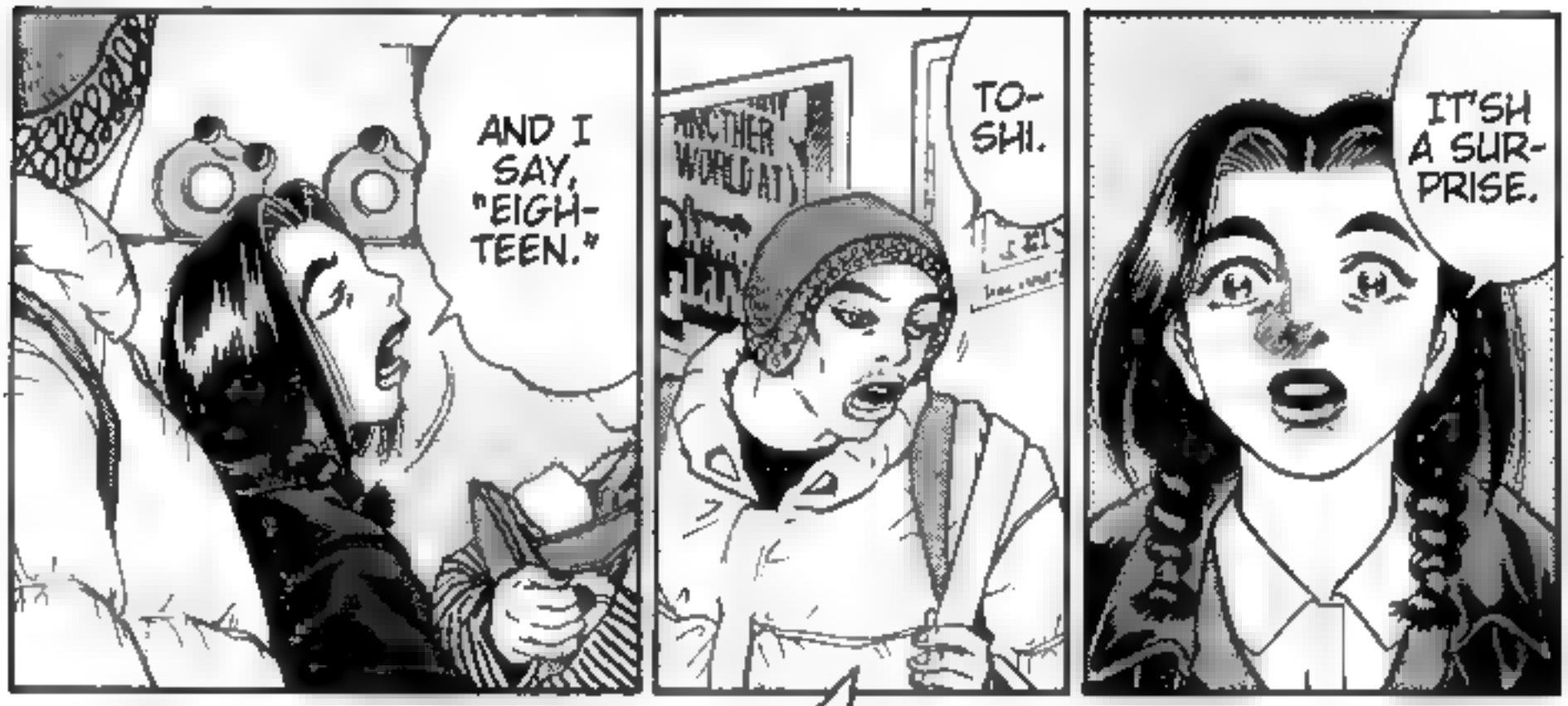
HUH?
AGE 18!

"TO-SHI"!

WAH HA HA HA!!

NO.

GET IT?


AND I SAY, "EIGH-TEEN."
TO-SHI.
IT'SH A SUR-PRISE.
JUST SURPRISIN' YOU TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD, AND BOY, DID IT WORK!
...IT TAKESH PLACE IN WINTER... OR MAYBE SUMMER... ANYWAY, DERE'SH A GAME WHERE YOU GO INTO PEOPLE'SH HOUSES WITH YER SHOES ON.
MR. KARITA IS FAMOUS FOR DAT IN HIS HOMETOWN, AND, ER...
YOU'VE SURELY HEARD OF THE FAMOUS FESHTIVAL IN KANSAI.
I DUNNO THE NAME OF THE PLACE, BUT...

NO, YOU'RE THINKING OF "NAMA-HAGE."*

* SEE END OF CHAPTER.

LOOK, YOU DIDN'T TAKE OFF YER SHOES, SO I HAD TA COME UP WITH AN EXPLANATION, RIGHT?

...THERE'S NO FESTIVAL LIKE THAT IN KANSAI.

MY LITTLE MARIA ...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MR. NARITA?

YOU HAFTA TAKE OFF YER SHOES WHEN YOU ENTER.

EVEN IF I OWE YOU MY LIFE, I CAN'T ALLOW DIS.

THAT'SH COMMON COUR-TESY IN JAPAN.

click

YOU PROBABLY HAVE YOUR REASONSH, BUT...

Oh no

I'm standing in front of Higashi Odate Station, which is currently in ruins.

As you can see, the area around the station was not spared either

The TV...

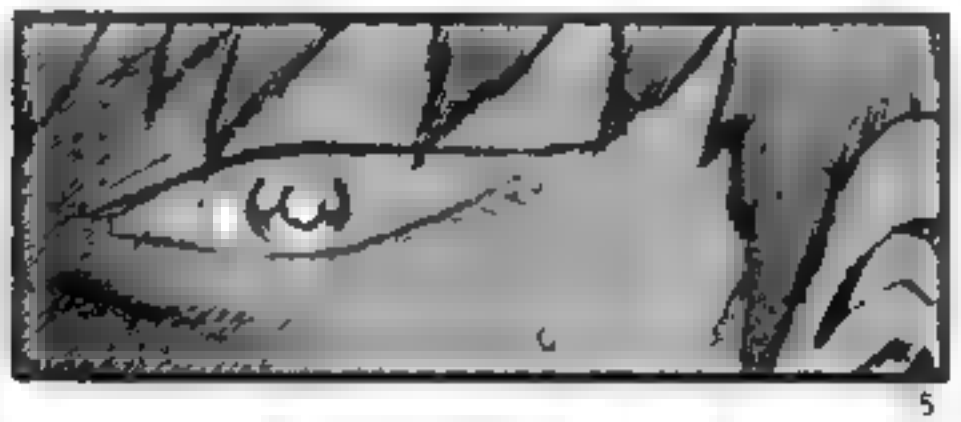
TURN IT OFF!

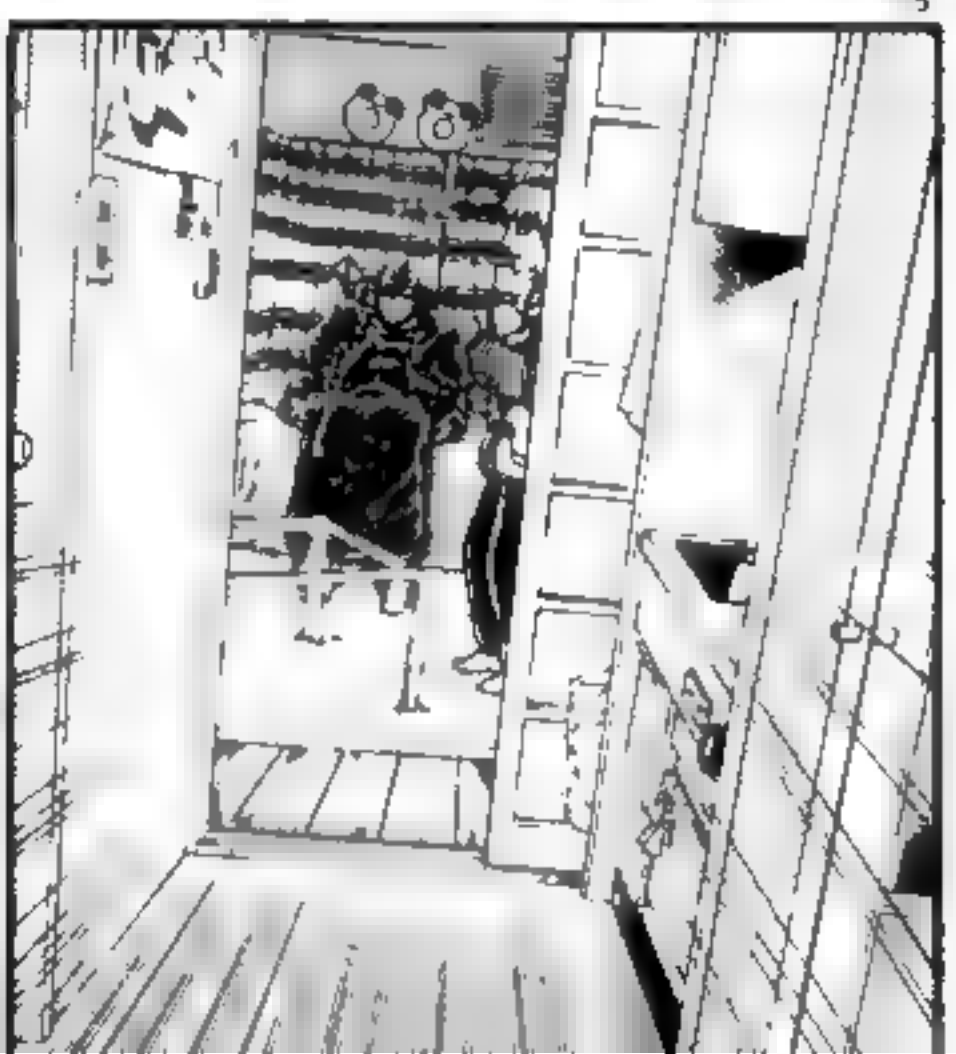
MAYBE WE'LL SEE YOUR HOUSE.

The fire squads arrived late, and...

TURN OFF THE TV WHEN YOU'RE TALKIN' TO SOMEONE.

YOU TOOK US IN AND FED US. I'M JUST CONCERNED FOR YOUR FOLKS...





...
linked to
Toshi-Mo
...

...INNB

click

...
rumors
...

KEEP IT TURNED OFF, PLEASHE.

I'LL GO GET SOME DRINKS FROM THE FRIDGE.

IF IT'S NORMAL FOR HIM TO KEEP HIS SHOES ON, WE HAVE TO RESPECT THAT.

MA-RIA ...

HM?

ÄH.

AH-AH ...

8

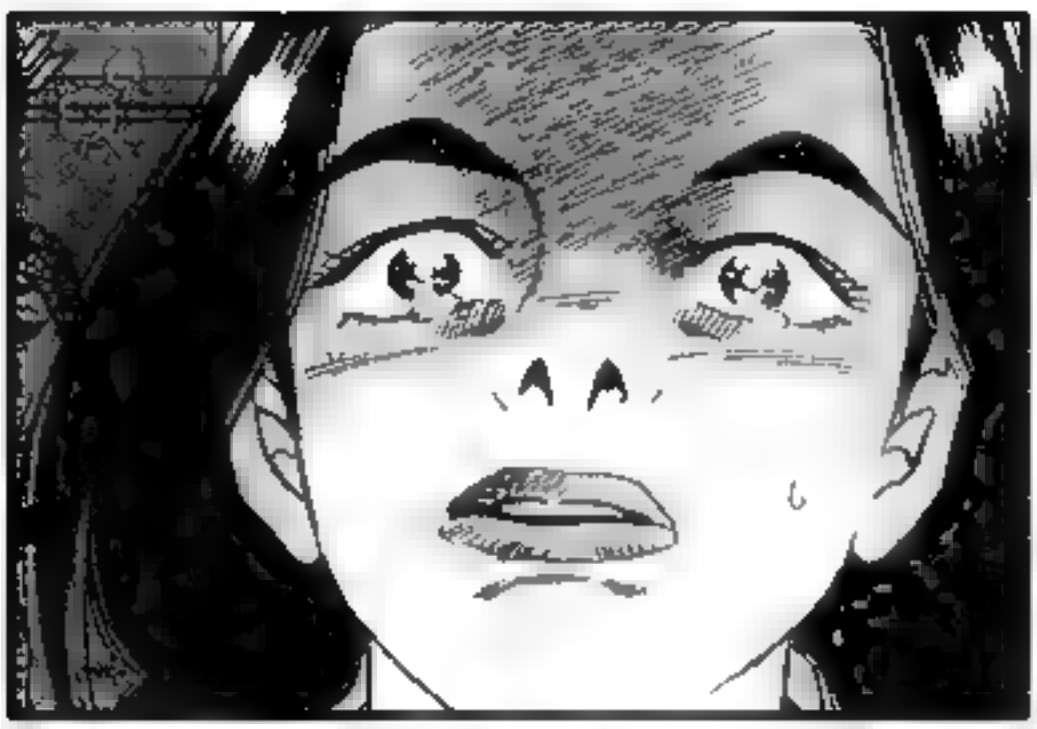
NOTES

194 Just in case you wanted to know (and since Corro gave them to me), the meanings of the names Maria is thinking about, which lead to her outburst of "Age 18":

Otoshita: "dropped, removed, downloaded"
Kotoshi: "this year"
Uruudoshi: "leap year"
Toshi: "age / years old"

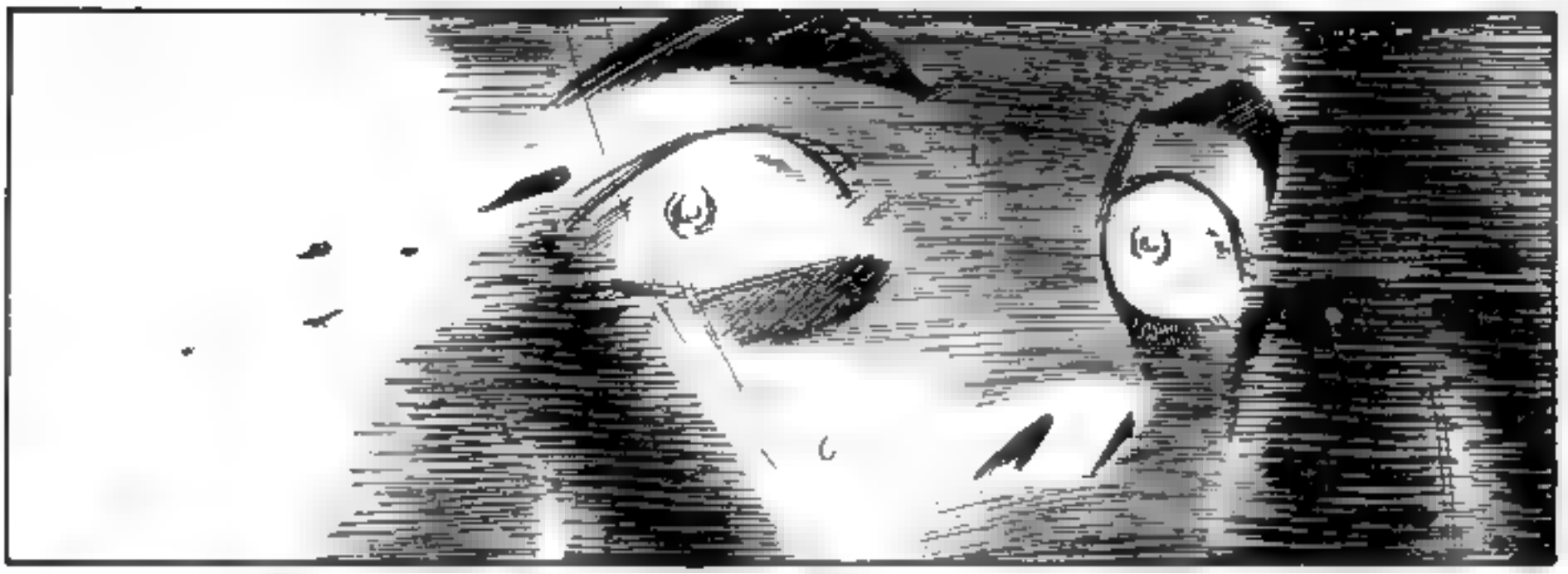
198 **Namahage** is a Japanese ritual for cleansing people's souls and blessing the new year that is practiced in Oga in Akita Prefecture.

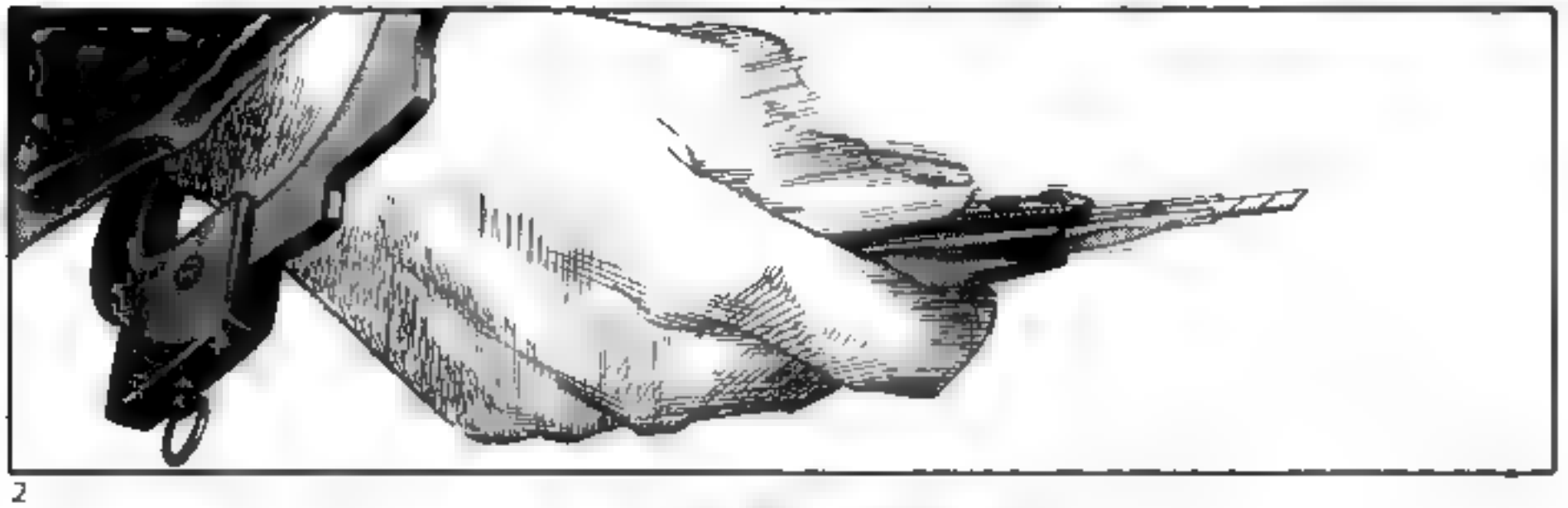
On New Year's Eve, a group of young men dressed up as demons visit each house in the village, telling children not to be lazy or cry. Then the parents will assure the Namahage that there is no bad child in their house, and give food or traditional Japanese alcoholic beverages to the demons.



The World Is Mine
ザ・ワールド・イズ・マイン

103 18-YEAR-OLD YOUNG MOTHER LIVING IN AKITA





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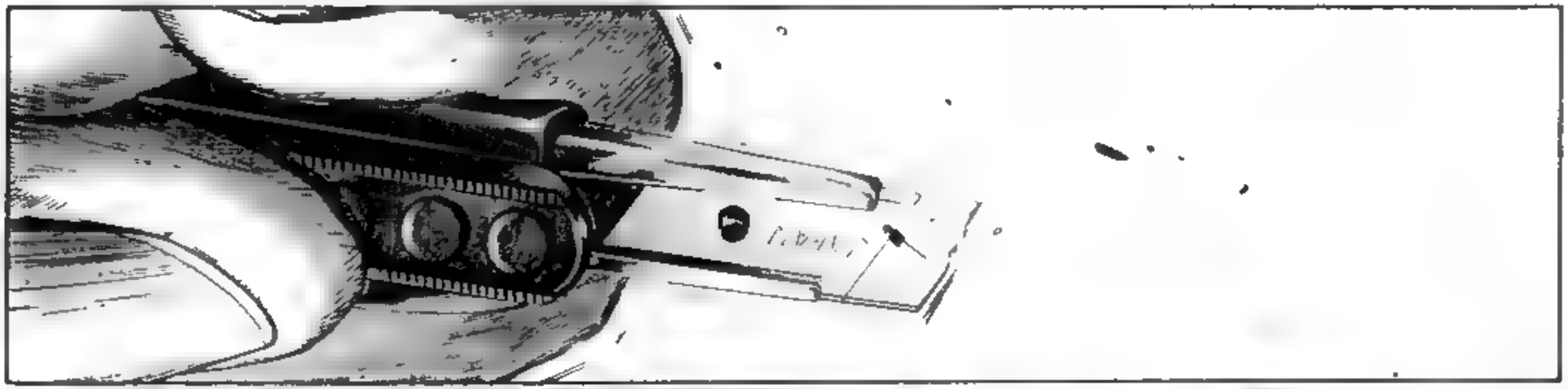
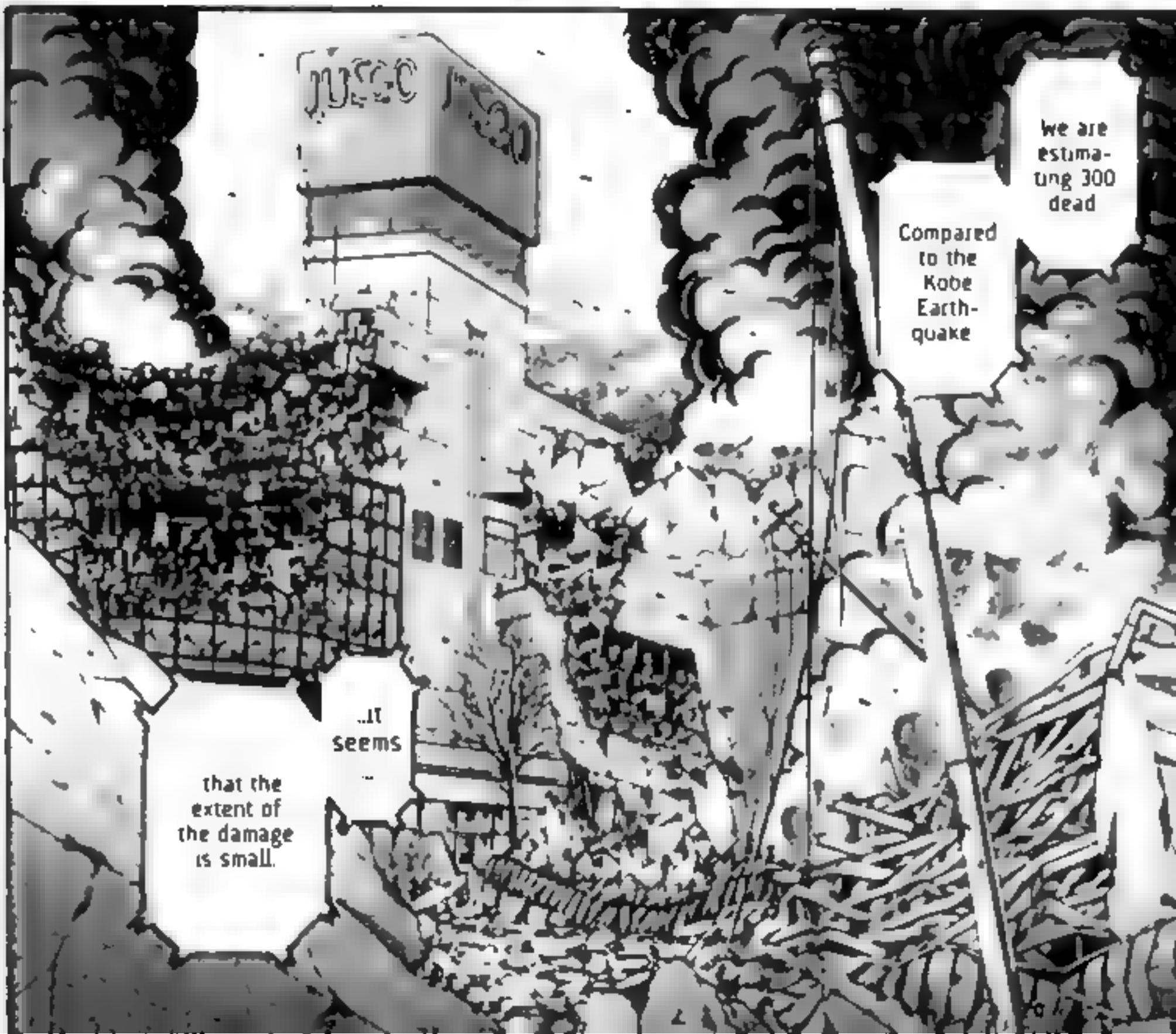



we are estima-ting 300 dead
Compared to the Kobe Earth-quake
..it seems ..
that the extent of the damage is small.

Examining the situation more closely...

...the catastrophe occured in a straight line!

Yes, the only damages occured in the monster's path.

Looking for my 3-year-old dog Beth

Please excuse us for the inappropriate language.

103

18-YEAR-OLD YOUNG MOTHER LIVING IN AKITA

ODATE CENTRAL POLICE STATION
THE TIME:
THE BODIES WERE DISCO-VERED AT 09:50 TODAY...
THE PLA-CE:
HANAZAWA, IN ODATE, INSIDE SAKATA ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE HANAZAWA MURDERS IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
8

THAT IS ALL.

AND ...

WE BELIEVE THAT THREE OF THE BODIES WERE CUT INTO PIECES IN THE BATHROOM POSTMORTEM.

WHAT ?

THE CHEF LOOKS RATHER DUMB

APPARENTLY HIS SON WAS KILLED BY THE MONSTER

PLEASE BE MORE SPECIFIC, EVEN IF IT'S OFF THE RECORD!!

IT WAS TOSHI-MON, WASN'T IT?

THERE WAS APPARENTLY EVIDENCE LEFT AT THE SCENE!

BUT SIR, WE ALREADY KNOW ALL THAT!

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO ASK QUESTIONS!

WHAT THE HELL?

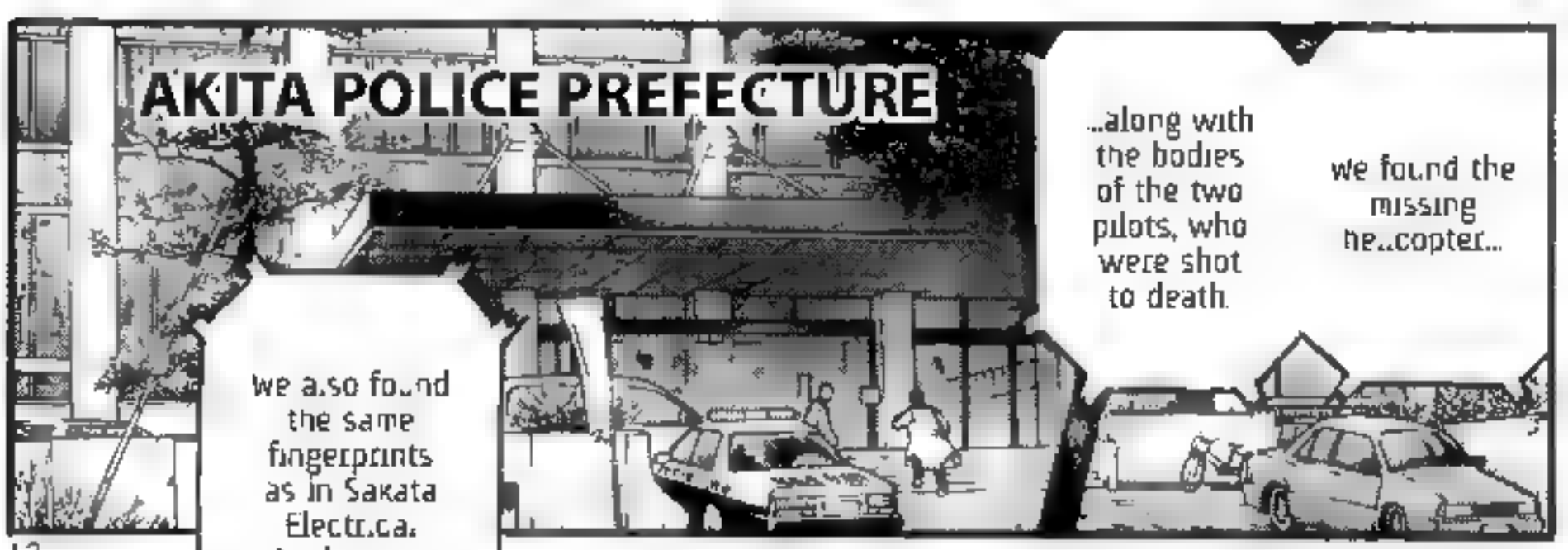
THAT IS ALL.

ER... WE'VE SAID EVERYTHING WE CAN.

WHAT DID YOU MEAN, "ONLY"? THAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?
WHICH ONE OF YOU SAID THAT THERE WERE "ONLY FOUR DEAD"?

THEY'LL GATHER LIKE FLIES, SO HURRY!!

COVER HIM WITH A BLANKET BEFORE THE MEDIA GETS HERE!


AKITA POLICE PREFECTURE
...along with the bodies of the two pilots, who were shot to death.
we found the missing he..copter...
we a.so found the same fingerprints as in Sakata Electr.ca. Appliances.

AKITA
S.r! It's Tosh.-Man!!

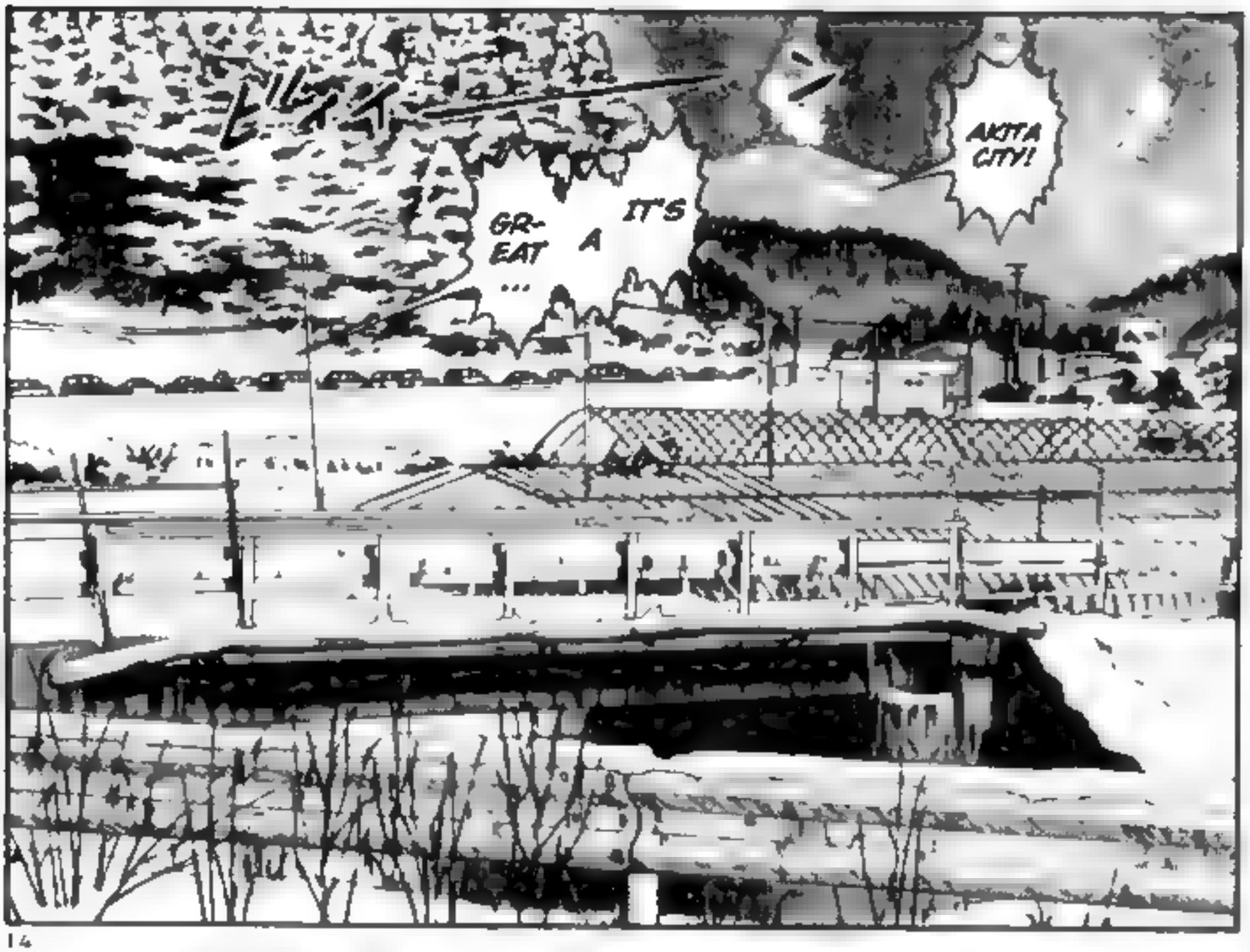
THE TRAIN-ING GROU-NDS.

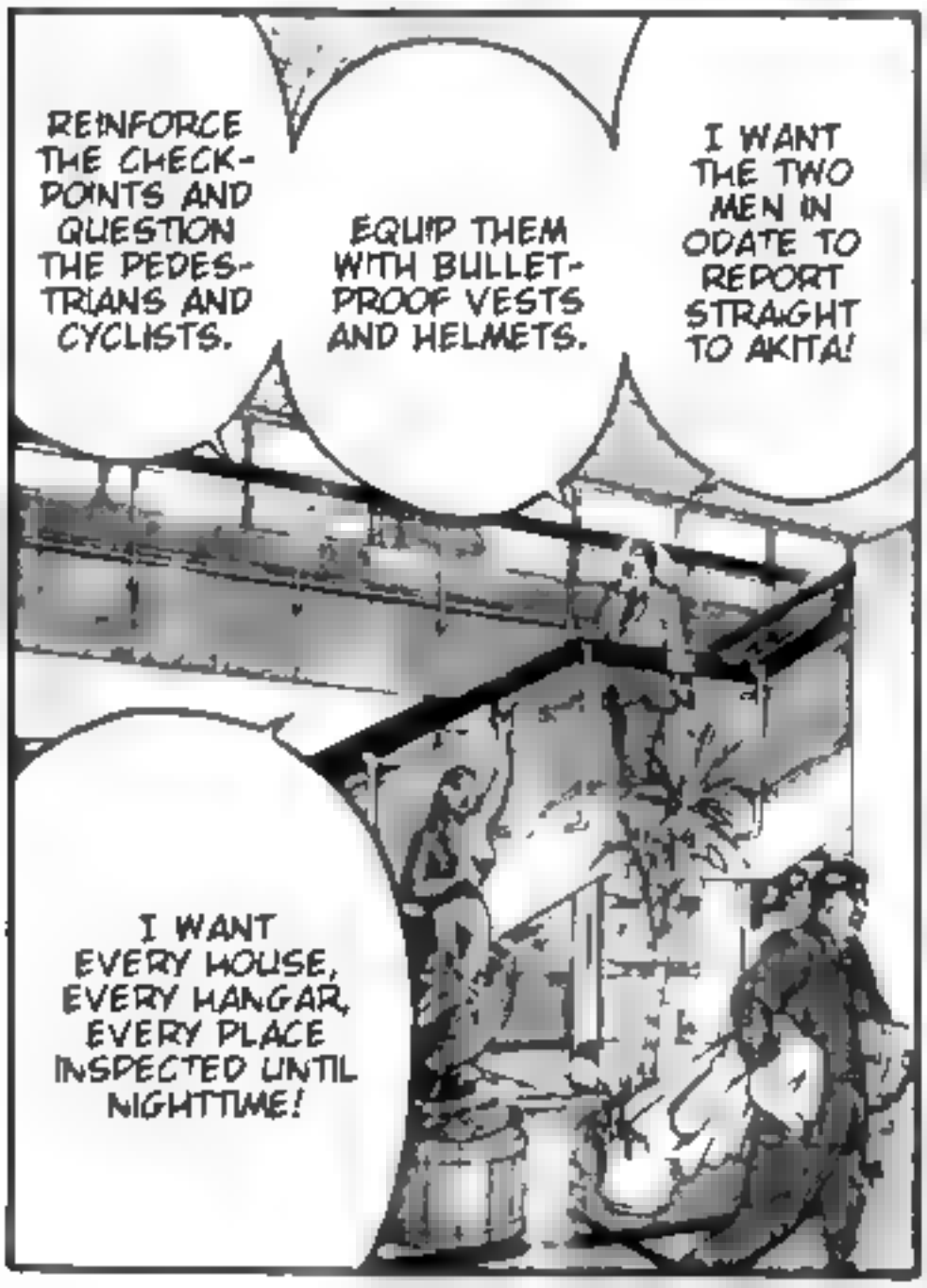
3

Two three hours after the first

WHEN DID THE SECOND CORPSE DIE?

ODATE CRISIS UNIT


AKITA CITY!
IT'S A GR-EAT ...


REINFORCE THE CHECK-POINTS AND QUESTION THE PEDES-TRIANS AND CYCLISTS.
EQUIP THEM WITH BULLET-PROOF VESTS AND HELMETS.
I WANT THE TWO MEN IN ODATE TO REPORT STRAIGHT TO AKITA!
I WANT EVERY HOUSE, EVERY HANGAR, EVERY PLACE INSPECTED UNTIL NIGHTTIME!

ES-CAPE !!

I HEREBY LIFT THE GAG ORDER ON THE MEDIA!! WE WILL REVEAL THAT TOSHI-MON ARE ON THE RUN AND WILL ASK FOR THE HELP OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION!

ALSO, PLAN A PRESS CONFERENCE.

JUST IN CASE, I WANT MARINE CHECK-POINTS INSTALLED.

AKITA POLICE STATION

No matter. I'm in charge here

ARE YOU SURE? WHAT DOES THE PRIME MINISTER THINK?

JUST TO MAKE SURE THEY GET IT ...

...THEY ARE AUTHOR-IZED TO SHOOT !!

ALSO TELL ALL OFFICERS THAT IF THE SAFETY OF CIVILIANS IS ASSURED...

"SHOOT BEFORE YOU'RE SHOT!"

15

16

SHHH

JUN-KO ...

SO-RRY ...

SO SO-RRY ...

SO-RRY ...

I'M SO-RRY.

SO-
RRY
...

SUIK-

SFX: WAAH WAAH

AA
AA
AH
!!

AAH
...

AH
...

— THE WORLD IS MINE 9 END —

The World Is Mine 9

ヤングサンデーコミックス

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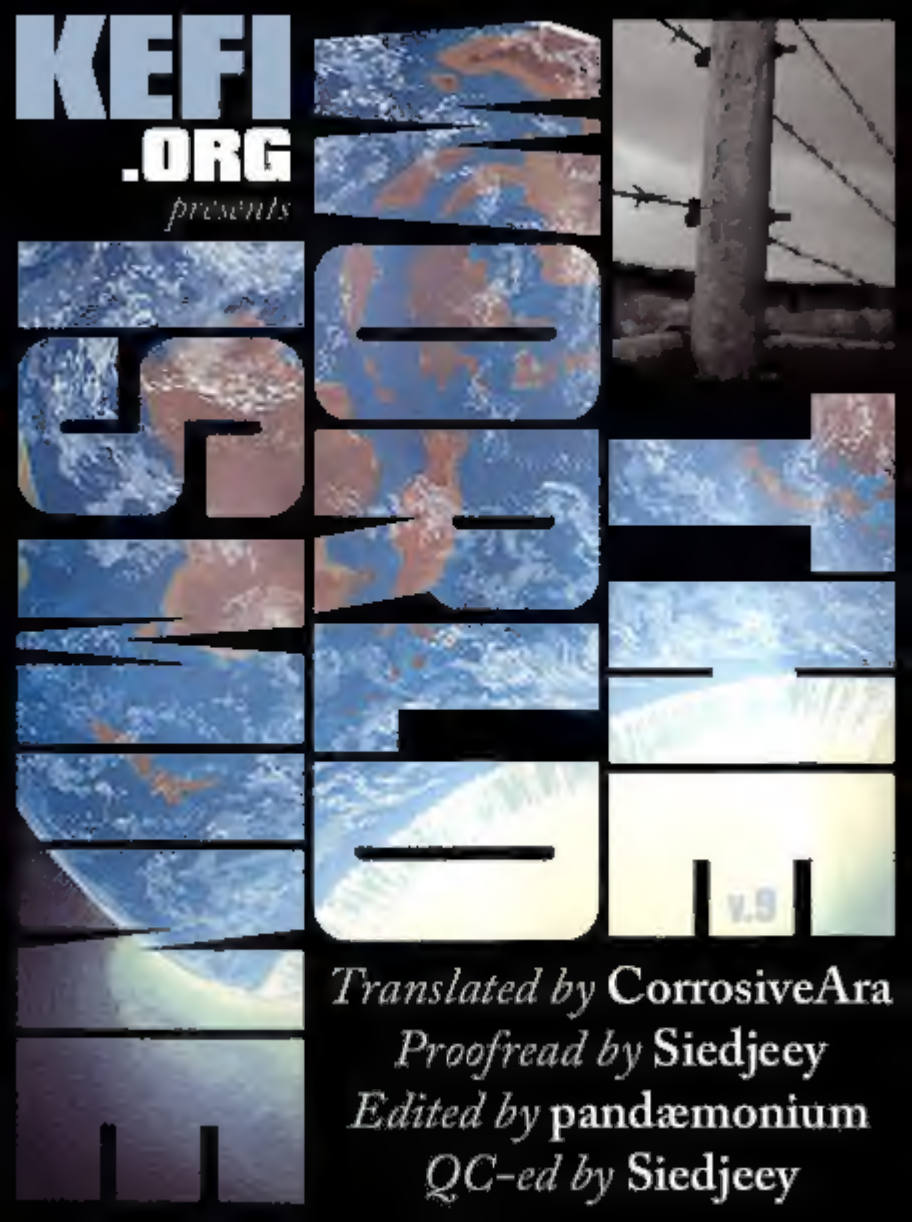

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